



Clayton Elementary

7541 184 Street
Surrey, B.C. V4N 3G5
604-576-6411

Principal: Mrs. L. Fenrick
Head Secretary: Mrs. D. Copan



September 10, 2021

Dear Cougar families,

What a fantastic first couple of days it has been! It was wonderful to see all your children again and to start up with a (mostly) typical year!

We had our first assembly today, and although it was virtual, we were all able to see how back to normal our year will be able to be. For example, we can have sports teams, clubs, and activities. We are able to get together with buddy classes and have a regular playground routine. Eventually, we will be able to have in person assemblies, although we will be doing these with half the school at a time, community gatherings, and family groups. We will be easing into these activities as the school year progresses.

To make this safe for all, we are continuing with:

- our regular hand washing and sanitizing
- wearing masks for all staff and Grades 4-7 students
- encouraging our youngest learners to wear masks
- doing our regular health checks before arriving at school. We ask that you keep your children home if they are feeling unwell.

Teachers worked hard over the last couple of days to get to know all the students in their new grade levels. Classes have been built and are set. Your child should be coming home today with information about who their teacher is and where they should meet on Monday. Please check your child's backpack for a notice about this.

Class placements:

This is always an anxious time for children and families. Your child may have some ideas on which teacher they were hoping to get and who might be in their class. Class placements are done with much thought and care and with involvement from the teachers who had the students the previous year. We make every attempt to balance classes in terms of learning styles, levels, preferences, social connections, and parent requests. There is never any perfect way to do it, and every year, by the end of the second week of school, students feel settled. Changes will not be made to classes after today. The best thing you can do as parents is to find all the positives about a new year and a new (or familiar) teacher and to reassure your child that if their best friend is not in their class, they can see them before and after school and meet up at recess and lunch. We have many combined classes, and whether your child is a straight class or combined class, they will be receiving instruction at their level. All classes are balanced with various instructional levels, regardless of grade level or straight/combined classes.

What to bring on Monday:

- **School supplies** if you have them – you can still order supplies from School Start by going online at www.schoolstart.ca. The supply lists are on our website under the Parent tab if you would like to buy

them on your own. Please do not worry about having everything all at once or on Monday. Also, please call and talk to the office if purchasing school supplies is a financial burden. We CAN help you out!

- **Snack and Lunch**
- **Water bottle** – our water fountains are not going to be open for use yet, but the water bottle filling stations ARE open

Planners

Planners will be handed out next week. The cost is \$5. By Monday, you will be able to pay online at <https://surreyschools.schoolcashonline.com/> or send cash with your child in a labelled (child name and division/grade) envelope or baggy. Please let the office know if you are unable to pay; we are happy to assist.

Adults entering the school building:

Parents and guardians are allowed in the building if you are wearing a mask. If you need to speak to your child's teacher, please make an appointment first; we ask that you don't go to a classroom without an appointment. If you need to talk to the office, it is best to phone if possible. However, you can also come to the office window and wear a mask. Please do not walk through the building

Please know that I am always here to assist you, listen, and work with you in the best interest of all the children. It is when we work together that your children have the best experience at school. We always work through a problem-solving approach, and you never need to worry about being "that parent." We want to hear from you if there are issues, please don't leave it until it's a big problem.

I'm looking forward to a great year!!

Take care,

Lauretta Fenrick
Principal, Clayton Elementary

