



École Élémentaire MARTHA CURRIE Elementary School

5811 184 Street, Surrey, B.C. V3S-4N2

Phone: 604-576-8551 Fax: 604-576-0431

www.surreyschools.ca/schools/marthacurrie

August 31, 2021

To the Parents/Guardians of Martha Currie Students,

It's hard to believe that school starts in one week! We sincerely hope all of our families enjoyed a safe and relaxing summer. We know that you have a lot of questions about what this year will look like. As a staff, we have been waiting for updates from the District before sending out information to our community. A series of meetings (ending yesterday afternoon) gave us some direction, so now we are ready to share them with you.

Please know that we are very proud of how well our staff has followed safety protocols throughout the pandemic, and we are confident that we will continue to do everything we can to keep all of our students, staff and community as safe as possible.

What will happen on Tues., Sept. 7?

-**Kindergarten students** will only be required to sign-in and leave. Please ensure your child does come for this. French K will meet in the Cafeteria, and English K will meet in the Gym. We will be sending out an email with more information to our K families.

-**Students in grades 1-7** will be in session from 10:00am to 11:00am on Tuesday.

-Students will be lining up by grade in various areas around the school. We will have signs and maps up to indicate where your child will need to line up. They will be picked up from the same location.

What will happen starting Wed., Sept. 8?

-**Students in kindergarten** will follow the Gradual Entry schedule you were previously sent.

-**Students in grades 1-7** will be in school for full days (8:30am - 2:35pm).

-**Students in grades 1-7** will be dropped off and picked up from the same location all week.

-Students will be put in grade groups and rotate with various teachers.

-Once we get District approval of our class configurations, we will announce to the students who their teacher and classmates will be for the rest of the year. We always hope to have that by the end of the first week, but the process sometimes takes us to the start of Week 2.

Will there be a Blended Learning option this year?

-At this time, the answer is no.

-All Surrey District students are expected to be in-school, unless a family chooses to do home-schooling.

What are some of the COVID protocols that have changed?

-Students will no longer be in cohorts. Thus, they can interact with students from other classes.

-Recess breaks will not be staggered.

-Extracurricular activities (teams, clubs, etc.) can occur.

-2 meter spacing is no longer required, though it is still encouraged when possible.

What are some of the COVID protocols that have remained from last year?

- Masks are mandatory for all staff and for all students in grades 4-7.
- If a student cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, they will be exempt.
- Masks are recommended for all students in grades K-3.
- Students are to wash hands before leaving and when returning from the classroom.
- Visitors are asked not to enter the school without an appointment or a pre-scheduled event.
- All adults must sign-in when they come into the school for any scheduled reason.
- If your child shows any symptoms of COVID, please keep them at home.
- If your child shows any symptoms of COVID while at school, they will be isolated until you are able to pick them up.
- High touch areas of the school will continue to be disinfected at least once a day.
- Gatherings outside are discouraged. Family members coming for pickup are asked to minimize contact and maximize space with each other.

Please know that all of the above comes with the caveat that ‘things can change!’ We have learned through the pandemic that schools are frequently given a change of protocols, so we will adjust as needed and keep our families in the loop.

We will continue to update you as we get more information. Please note that updates and weekly newsletters are sent via our school newsletter route. If you haven’t done so in the past, PLEASE ensure you have signed up to receive these newsletters. This is done by going to the Martha Currie website and entering your email address in the “Email List” box in the middle of the Home page. The link is: <https://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/marthacurrie/Pages/default.aspx> .

If you hear any parents wondering about issues that we address in our updates, please ask them to register for the newsletters.

We hope all of you enjoy the last week of summer!

Sincerely,

Mr. B. Samra and Mme S. Christmas
(Principal) (Acting Vice-Principal)