



1 September 2021

Dear Sunnyside Families,

Message from Ms. Paredes and Mrs. Scott

The Sunnyside staff would like to send each of you a warm welcome back to school. ☺ We welcome our returning and new families to our learning community. This year we have several new families joining our school community. This offers our students a wonderful opportunity to make new friendships and create new connections. We hope you have had a restful summer break with memories of family and friends.

We are all excited about the 2021 - 2022 school year at Sunnyside Elementary. The beginning of a new year is a good time to reaffirm the goals and expectations of the school.

As a community of learners, we expect students to:

- **Take care of themselves**
- **Take care of others**
- **Take care of our school community**

We will be reminding students that at Sunnyside elementary we ask students to solve problems using kind words, and to seek help for themselves and others when needed. We expect students to strive to reach their fullest potential. Our learning community continues to focus on our school wide goal of Social Emotional Learning (SEL).

Sunnyside elementary offers a well-rounded program to meet the academic, social, and behavioral needs of all children. The school maintains high expectations for students in terms of academic achievement and development of good citizenship skills. We also strive to maintain excellent communications with parents, and we look forward to working with you as partners in our learning community. We look forward to working closely with parents and staff to make our school the best place it can be for students. During the year, your child will see us in their classrooms, outside during breaks, before and after school introducing ourselves and supporting them as needed. Students in Grades 5-7 will have an opportunity to get involved in our community through our new student leadership program that centers on building student voice through service to both our school and neighborhood community. More information and applications will be coming out during the first weeks of school for interested students.

A reminder to parents, we welcome open communication and encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns, or feedback or to arrange an in-person meeting if necessary. We look forward to meeting with our families in the weeks to come.

Have a great start back. ☺

Ms. Lys Paredes & Ms. Scott
Principals

Construction and Parking

Our construction is well under way for our new 10-classroom addition. The expected completion date is June 2022. We have a lot of fencing up to keep children safe as our building is being worked on. During the summer, crews worked diligently to prepare our site for gas, sewage, and student access points. The foundation for the addition will be poured soon, which will be exciting for our community to see. As work continues throughout the year, there will be changes in parking and foot traffic access. Our front drop-off loop is unaffected; however, this remains a staff parking lot so please do not park in this area. Children must be able to enter and exit the vehicle independently for this drop-off zone. If your child requires assistance, please park in the lower lot or on the street and walk in. This ensures the drop zone does not become backed up as we need to keep it moving freely. Children should exit their vehicle and walk along the sidewalk, not through the parking lot and driving lanes. **Drivers please “crawl at a snails’ pace” through our parking lots at all times to ensure student safety and to prevent accidents.**

We are strongly encouraging families to prioritize walking to school this year. Our parking will continue to be limited as we work through construction. Our middle Staff Only parking lot will be used to accommodate foot traffic from 8:15am-2:45pm every day until our construction has been completed.

Parents are permitted to park in the lower lot. Student safety is top priority, and we encourage parents to ensure they are parked in designated areas only and not double parked illegally. If you must drive, please park in the neighborhood, and walk in rather than get caught in the traffic congestion that will be near the school. Your attention to this will be appreciated.

What does our first day look like?

Students in Grade 1-7 attend on Tuesday, Sept 7 from 10:00am-11:00am. Normal school hours will commence Wednesday, 8 September.

Our Grade 1-7 students will be sorted by grade group and alphabetical groupings during the first week. This sorting will be for attendance purposes and to prevent confusion for drop-off and pick-up during our first week back. Students will continue to line up and be dismissed from the same place until classes are finalized. Once student attendance is completed each day, students will be rotating within their grade group as we work on class organizations and building the best possible learning groups. There will be signs outside with maps (for families and staff) so they know where to go the first week.

Students in Kindergarten attend on Tuesday Sept 7

- Group A/B visits from 8:45am-9:15am
- Group C/D visits from 12:30pm-1:00pm

Parents will be asked to deliver their child to the assigned K teacher door. At this time, parents are asked not to enter the classroom. Our focus on Tuesday will be getting our Ks into the new routine of entering the classroom, washing hands, becoming comfortable with a new learning space while developing friendships. We will have opportunities for parents to connect with staff. We will offer in-person meetings to visit or connect with teachers. We also offer a virtual visit if you would prefer, during the gradual entry schedule.

When parents have opportunities to visit, they must adhere to the Health and Safety protocols (Daily health check completed, masks being worn, signing in and out from the office, hand hygiene upon entering or exiting, keeping space from others, only going into spaces they must for meeting).

[Sunnyside Map for Line Up Locations](#)

What do classes look like for the first week?

For the first few days of school, students will be working with a variety of teachers. The organization of our classes depends on the enrolment and the needs of all students. For us to make the best possible decisions for all our students, we need some time to find out which students are returning to Sunnyside and to balance these numbers with our new registrations. The office staff has been busy with new registrations this past week. Students will be

placed in their classes when we have our final numbers and class organizations. Our plan is to have all students in their classes as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience as we work to make balanced classes.

As we set classes each year, we find that due to the way our enrolment numbers fall into place, we must create some combined classes. Parents often have questions or concerns regarding their child being in a combined class. Please read the information sheet on the back of this newsletter that highlights some important details regarding combined classes. You may also wish to check out a thoughtful blog post written by Chris Wejr on combined classes (<http://chriswejr.com/2012/09/09/will-my-child-be-ok-in-a-split-class/>).

Once classes have been finalized, parents will receive an email confirming class placement details. We ask that you support your child and allow time for them to adjust to their final placement. Please do not call the school immediately requesting a change in classes as no classroom changes will be made during this transition time. We want to allow students time to adjust and connect with their assigned class.

Covid Protocols

Thank you to all our families for your support last year as we practiced new ways of ensuring safety for students and staff. As we begin this year, there are some Health and Safety protocols that will remain, and others that are no longer recommended by Fraser Health.

K-12 Health Check

Just a reminder that every parent is responsible for monitoring the daily health of your child(ren) before sending them to school.

The Ministry of Health has also provided families with an additional resource, the online [K-12 Health Check](#).

Visitors are required to:

- Perform a health check prior to entering the building
- Wear a mask
- Sign in with contact information at the office
- Respect others' personal space
- Visitors are to only access areas required for the visit

Masks:

- All staff visitors, volunteers and students in Grades 4-12 are **required** to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, while indoors and on school buses
- We encourage parents, while on school grounds, to wear a mask at drop-off and pick-up times

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least 1x/day.

If parents in the community are carpooling:

- Spread out occupants as much as possible
- Travel with the same people whenever possible
- Masks recommended for those 9 and older
- Hand hygiene before and after
- Open windows
- Clean high touch surfaces
- Set ventilation to bring in the fresh outside air, not recirculate

We will update our Sunnyside community as we receive more information regarding safety protocols