

Back to School at Airport Elementary



At Airport, we strive to fully support the learning of each and every one of our students.

This school year will be different as we adjust and adapt to help keep all of us safe and healthy through the Coronavirus pandemic. We are prepared as a school to continue to provide a fantastic learning environment and welcoming community for our families.

Our work, decisions, and actions will be guided by the following **Guiding Principles**. If you have any questions about this document or about our return to school, please do not hesitate to contact Al Johnson directly (albert.johnson@sd71.bc.ca)

Ministry of Education

1. Ensure a healthy and safe environment for all students, families, and employees.
2. Provide the services needed to support children of our essential workers.
3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

The first few days

The first week of school will be a gradual start for all students in the province. This is to make sure all staff and students are prepared to follow the new safety protocols.

- **Tuesday September 8 and Wednesday, September 9** – all staff on site preparing classrooms and being trained on safety protocols. **NO STUDENTS ON SITE.**
- **KINDERGARTEN** students have an extended gradual entry. We will email parents with their schedules.
- **Grade 1-7 students – meeting outside the exterior door to their classroom. We will email parents which teacher each child has in the week of September 1**
 - Thursday, September **10** – ONLY Students with LEGAL last names beginning with A-K come to school for the morning. (8:40 to 11:40)
 - Friday, September **11** – ONLY Students with LEGAL last names beginning with L-Z come to school for the morning. (8:40 to 11:40)
- Monday, September 14 – **FULL TIME** school for all Grade 1-7 students.

Safety procedures

All our plans and procedures are based on the safety protocols and procedures outlined in both the [school district](#) and the [BCCDC](#). On some points the district is holding a higher standard. Some of the highlights in these documents are:

- **Masks:** Elementary Students are not required to wear masks. The district will provide each staff member and student with 2 re-usable masks, but it is up to parents and kids to wear them.
- **Handwashing:** Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer many times in a day, whenever they move to a common space, before and after eating, and when entering the class.
- **Staying home when sick:** By bringing students to school parents are confirming that they and their family are healthy and free of any signs of illness. Students and staff need to stay at home and notify the school office if they are sick.
- **Kids who get sick at school:** Our first aid attendants will support students who are sic., Sick children will be isolated from other staff and students until parents are able to come pick them up.
- **Cleaning:** Spot cleaning will be done by the classroom teacher as needed throughout the day. The day custodian will clean/wipe common areas during the school day and will focus on classrooms during lunch and student break times. Common technology such as laptops and copiers will be cleaned by the user before and after each use. Cleaning supplies will be readily available in these areas.
- **Busing:** If space is available, physical distancing on buses will occur. Students will be assigned seats and are expected to use those seats each time they ride the bus. All students, age 11 and up are required to wear face masks while on the bus. Buses will operate with mechanical and natural ventilation being used. For example, every other window will be opened $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way, mechanical ventilation will be on the highest setting, and roof hatches will be open. Students will need to dress appropriately.

Student groupings

As usual students will be assigned a class, which we will send home to all parents before school begins. We have a number of new student registrations so we haven't finalized lists yet.

Classes will be paired up into cohorts of no more than 60 students and staff, who will be able to learn and play together. In these cohorts, students will be asked to minimize physical contact. For any staff and students outside of the cohort students will be keeping physically distant when inside and minimize physical contact when outside.

Group/Cohort		# of students
A	Gill K	19
B	Saroya K/1 Geneau 1/2	39
C	Rudolph 2/3 Clarke 4/5	45
D	Nolin 5/6 Paul 6/7	45

Daily Schedule

- 8:35 – warning bell
- 8:40 – School starts, teachers will meet students at their assigned doors to come in
- 10:15 – recess
- 11:45 – students in Cohorts A and B eat; students in Cohorts C and D go outside to play
- 12:05 - Students in Cohorts C and D come inside to eat
- 12:10 - students in Cohorts A and B go outside to play
- 12:30 - class time begins again
- 2:30 – dismissal

Moving around the building

Students will be able to use common spaces such as the gym, library, and music portable. They will wash hands before going into these rooms. Teachers and staff who are outside of the cohorts listed above (LST's Administrators, etc.) will have to keep physically distant with students or wear a mask.

Directional arrows will help students to move down the right side of hallways and keep distant from other classes. Student movement through the building will be closely supervised by staff.

Bathrooms will be limited to 2 students at a time (k-2 students will use the washrooms in the "Student Services Wing"; 3-7 students will use the washrooms adjacent to the staff room). Water fountains are turned off, but bottle refilling stations are available. Please bring a water bottle to school every day.

As always, please dress for the weather (appropriate footwear and rain jacket)

Students with diverse abilities

- We will continue the processes that have been established district-wide and are already in place in our schools: Case Management; SBT—Referral/Review process; development of IEP/Learning Plans; assessment processes/assessment
- Each student with diverse abilities/disabilities or designation will be assigned a Case Manager or PVP/Counsellor contact.
- Case Managers and/or PVP/Counsellor contacts will connect with families to ensure that they are aware that their child/youth is welcome to attend school and to provide an update on their child/family
- We will continue to monitor school re-engagement levels of vulnerable students and families and will follow processes to connect with these families.
- Case Managers/PVP/Counsellor contacts will bring students forward at SBT Review Meetings (to be held in the first 2 weeks of return to school) to review vulnerability, learning needs; EA supports, district specialist support, health and safety support; mental health support of all students in the cohort.

Parents and other non-staff adults

Parents will not be able to come into the school without the permission of the school administration. Teachers will meet their students at their exterior classroom doors and dismiss their students from these doors, too. If meetings are required we will schedule them for phone, online, or outdoors if possible. There will be no volunteers or user groups in the school building.

If students are struggling with transitions to school in the morning, staff will be outside to support them.

Other issues

There are a number of things we need to figure out in the upcoming days and weeks. For now, hot lunches, volunteers, sports, assemblies, morning gym, and a number of traditional school events and ideas are on hold until we can find a safe way to bring them back.

Communication

- We want to keep you informed. We recognize that too much information is overwhelming. We will try to keep messages brief so they can be easily read.
- Weekly emails (or more if necessary) will come home as things change and we adjust to it.

- Our webpage is a good place to find current info. Classrooms will come up with their own technique for keeping parents informed (planners, webpages, email etc...)
- Classroom teachers are the most valuable contact for people with questions about what is happening in class and for individual students
- If any issues or questions cannot be resolved through the teacher, please contact the Principal, Al Johnson at 250-339-3732 or through email albert.johnson@sd71.bc.ca