KAMLOOPS
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
TEACHING THE WHOLE TRUTH TO THE WHOLE PERSON

K-5 Full Return to School (Stage 2)

August 26, 2020

Dear KCS Elementary families,

On July 29, Mr. Rob Fleming and Dr. Bonnie Henry announced that schools will be reopening at Stage 2 on a full time basis for K-12 students. KCS will be implementing all health protocols provided by the Provincial Health Officer, the Ministry of Education, and Worksafe BC to ensure that students and staff remain healthy as students continue to learn. Thank you for reading the following procedures and helping us to keep KCS students and staff healthy. We are thankful to God that we can continue learning together in person as a school community.

Why are BC schools reopening?

1. It is safe to do so. Transmission from and between children is low. The ability of health officials to track and monitor community transmission is effective.
2. The Ministry of Education recognizes that inequities in learning are increasing while schools are closed for students who are vulnerable and who have special needs.
3. Families and students reported that anxiety and stress increased while students were not at school last spring. Schools provide important social and emotional connections for students.
4. Schools are a critical part of parents going back to work and reopening the economy.

KCS Learning Plans and Schedules:

A. K-5 students will be at school for full days. (See arrival and dismissal times below.)

B. Students will be placed in homerooms with one homeroom teacher and one EA for the majority of the day. Grade 1-5 Class lists will be sent home by Friday, September 4. Kindergarten Class lists will be sent home Friday, September 11.

C. Students will be organized into learning groups (their homeroom and one other classroom) for the following activities in order to limit the amount of contact among students.
    a. Entering and exiting the school (see below for specific entrances/exits assigned to learning groups)
    b. Recess and lunch breaks

c. Chapels

Elementary Learning Groups (cohorts):
Kindergarten students, teachers, and EA
Grades 1-3 students, teachers, and EA's
Grades 4-5 students, teachers, and EA's

D. Students will be learning outside (Science walks, PE classes, reading outside, etc.) as much as possible, weather permitting.

E. In order to reduce physical contact with students outside their learning groups, students will not participate in large group activities such as Elementary Chapel and an in-person Christmas program. Some activities (such as the Terry Fox Run) may continue outside with additional protocols put in place.

F. No indoor field trips will be scheduled; parents will be notified if this protocol changes. Outdoor field trips will be permitted if the destination has COVID-19 protocols that align with the school's protocols. Parents are not allowed to drive students other than their own children to field trips. If a class will be taking the KCS 24 passenger bus to a field trip location, all students will need to wear masks while on the bus. Busses will be follow procedures and cleaning protocols, including loading from back to front, unloading front to back, one child per seat if possible, and disinfecting and cleaning after each use.

G. Extra curricular activities such as sports may be offered after school but will be organized by learning groups. There will be no interschool competitions or tournaments held this fall.

Student Health and Safety:

A. Wellness Policy
   a. Any student, or staff member within the school who has a cold, the flu, or COVID-19-like symptoms may not attend school. Families are encouraged to seek assessment by a health-care provider for their child. Students can return to school as soon as their symptoms have resolved.
   b. Families are encouraged to use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool when assessing whether their child is able to attend school. https://www.thrive.health/bc-self-assessment-tool
   c. If your child has seasonal allergies, please ensure that they have taken medication to reduce sneezing.
   d. A student's temperature will be taken if a teacher thinks the child might be ill (fatigue, coughing, etc.). Students will be sent home if they have a fever above 38 degrees C or if they are exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms. Students need to be picked up immediately by a parent/guardian when contacted by the school.

Masks will be provided to any child who is exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms and those students will be monitored in a separated area from the rest of the cohort.

e. Students will be provided with learning plans and online support while they are isolating at home.
f. Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household has cold, influenza, or COVID19- like symptoms, provided that the student/staff is asymptomatic. It is expected the symptomatic household member is seeking assessment by a health-care provider.
g. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, Interior Health will follow up and provide protocols on whether others need to be tested or need to isolate at home. Interior Health will direct KCS administrators in any communication that needs to occur with families.
h. Administrators will report any school wide changes in attendance or spikes in illness to the Public Health Nurse (Interior Health).

B. Handwashing
    a. Students will wash their hands with soap/water or sanitizer for 20 seconds throughout the day:
        i. When they arrive at school and before they go home
        ii. Before and after recess breaks
        iii. Before and after eating or drinking
        iv. After sneezing or coughing into hands
        v. Before and after washroom breaks
    b. Appropriate disinfecting products and cleaning supplies will be provided in each space used by students.
    c. Students will be reminded how to wash hands properly.

C. Use of supplies
    a. Students will keep all individual supplies in separate containers or bins provided by the school.
    b. Individual manipulatives will be bagged and identified for individual student use as much as possible.
    c. Students will be reminded not to share school supplies with others.
    d. Students may not share food or personal items with others. Homemade food (i.e. birthday cupcakes) may not be brought to school to share with others.

D. General school cleaning
    a. Classroom door handles and water fountains will be sanitized throughout the day by custodial staff. Students can fill their water bottles at water fountains using the touchless option; students will not be able to drink directly from the water fountain.
    b. Washrooms will be cleaned twice a day by custodial staff.

c. Classroom supplies such as manipulatives or toys will be sanitized immediately if other students will be using the manipulatives.
d. IPads or Chromebooks will be cleaned between student use.

Physical distancing strategies to be implemented:

A. General
   a. Parents are requested not to be in classrooms or hallways during the school day. Parents are encouraged to call the office for information if possible rather than coming inside the school. Any visitor to the school must register their contact information at the office.
   a. No on site assemblies or chapels will be scheduled with groups outside of the students' learning groups.
   b. No buddy classroom activities will be scheduled outside of the learning groups.
   c. Students will be taught strategies to minimize physical contact.
   d. Elementary students will not be required to wear masks (except on the bus for a field trip or if they are showing symptoms at school and are waiting to be picked up by a parent). Staff will be wearing face shields if they are in contact with multiple learning groups or if they have a preference to wear a face shield.

B. In hallways:
   a. The use of cubbies will be staggered so that students in different cohorts are in the hallway at different times. Students with adjacent cubbies will not use their cubbies at the same time.
   b. Hallway use will be limited and monitored.

C. Inside classrooms:
   a. Classrooms will be organized to create space between student work areas.
   b. Group work will be minimized.
   c. Plexiglass dividers will be used when students share table spaces.
   d. Upholstered furniture or cushions that can not be easily cleaned and disinfected have been moved out of the classrooms.
   e. One classroom door will be used as an entrance and the other door will be used as an exit.

D. Inside washrooms:
   a. Classes will use a designated washroom (either inside their classroom or close to their classroom) to reduce the number of students using the same washroom.
   b. Washroom use will be restricted to 2 students at a time. Physical distancing reminders will be placed on the floor outside of the washroom.
   c. Students in Grades 4 & 5 will not be using changerooms and will not be expected to change for PE classes. They are encouraged to wear PE gear if possible to school on days that they have PE classes.

E. Recess and lunch breaks:
    a. Students must play in a designated area (playground or field) within their learning groups.
    b. Breaks will be staggered so that no more than two learning groups are outside at the same time in separate areas. Your child's homeroom teacher will provide you with your child's schedule so that you know when their recess and lunch breaks will be scheduled.

F. Arrival and Dismissal:
    a. Families are encouraged not to park behind the school but to use the new designated lanes in the parking lot for drop off and pick up. Parking is limited and is prioritized for kindergarten families.

    b. Arrival time at the school is staggered:
        i. families with the last initial A-M are requested to arrive between 8:05-8:15;
        ii. families with the last initial N-Z are requested to arrive between 8:15-8:25 am.

    ***Exceptions: Kindergarten families will drop off their child at the playground between 8:15-8:25 am (supervision provided by the school). Families with children in the IIP program are requested to drop off their children at 8:25 in the back parking lot behind the school. IIP staff will be there to pick up IIP students.*

    c. Students must come inside to their classroom immediately on arrival at school and must leave school property immediately on dismissal. Families are encouraged not to use the playground after school hours.

    d. Learning groups are assigned entrances to minimize student contact:
        i. Kindergarten students meet outside on the playground at 8:15 am and at the end of the school day; they will be brought inside at 8:25 am by a staff member.
        ii. Grades 1-3 students enter and exit through the exterior door by the Accounting office (behind the school)
        iii. Grades 4-5 students enter and exit through the exterior door by the back parking lot and basketball hoops.

    e. Pick up of students from the back parking lot will be staggered:
        i. families with the last initial A-M are requested to arrive between 2:45-2:55;
        ii. families with the last initial N-Z are requested to arrive between 2:55-3:05 pm.
        iii. Students will be waiting within their learning group on the blacktop by the basketball hoops for pick up.

***Exceptions: Families with children in the IIP program are requested to pick up their children at 2:45 pm from the back parking lot behind the school.*

If you have any questions, please email Karen Currie (karenc@kamcs.org), Elementary and Middle School Vice Principal.