

## September 2020 FAQs

**\*This information is up to date as of August 27, 2020. More information will be shared as it becomes available – please check the school and district websites regularly.\***

### **Will students be attending every day?**

- As per the Ministry of Education guidelines, students will be attending full time in September.

### **Does my child need to return to the classroom in September?**

- It is a parent's choice whether their child will return to the classroom in September.

### **Will there still be online learning?**

- No, there will not be online learning from Hillside. You may choose to do homeschooling or DL (Distributed Learning).

### **Will I be able to hold my spot at Hillside if I chose to not have my child return?**

- Unfortunately, your child's spot at Hillside can not be held.

### **How many students will be in my child's class?**

- As per the Ministry of Education guidelines class will have the regular amount of students. At Hillside our K-3 will have between 19-22 students and 4-6 will have between 25-30 students depending on class composition

### **What will the classroom look like?**

- Desks will generally be in rows or limited number of students at round tables for primary classes
- Furniture will be spaced out
- Students within the same class and learning group DO NOT need to be physically distanced (2m) according to the guidelines set out in the Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings but should avoid physical contact.
- Each classroom that has a sink will be stocked with soap for appropriate hand washing. Annexes that do not have sinks will be supplied with hand sanitizer for the students as well have access to a sink within the school.

### **What is a learning group?**

- a learning group is made up of students in K-6 with a limit of 60 people
- the number 60 includes adults (teacher, educational assistants)

### **How were the learning groups formed?**

- Careful consideration was made when forming learning groups
- Based on grade and class composition of students
- Based on the number of students in each class

### **How are class placements made?**

- Class lists were put together with careful consideration by staff and administration in June. The following criteria were considered: academic and social/emotional needs. These lists will be used this fall.
- An email will be sent out on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> after 2pm indicating who your child's teacher will be for the 2020/2021 school year.

### **Where will my child line up in the morning?**

- Class lineups will be on the north field or on the grass hill at the front of the school. An email indicating which area and division your child will need to be lined up in will be sent out on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- If lining up in the north field - Please look for your division on the chain link fence and line up using social distancing (eagle arms)
- If lining up on the grass in front of the school – Please look for your division on a marker placed at the top of the hill and line up using social distancing (eagle arms)
- Parents are welcome to line up with their students on their spots.

### **Where will I pick my child up at the end of the day?**

- Students will be dismissed from their classrooms at the end of the day when the parent is visible.
- Parents will need to park and meet their students. There will not be pick up from the loop.
- Please let your child's daycare know.
- Students must be picked up by 2:30 pm

### **Do I need to send school supplies to school?**

- Yes, please have your child bring their school supplies on the first day of school.
- Please ensure that your child brings a full water bottle to school each day.

### **What is my child has separation anxiety when I drop them off?**

- If your child is too distressed to stay at school with the teachers, we will need to discuss other options to support a gradual re-introduction to the classroom.

### **Does my child need inside shoes?**

- Yes. Please have your child bring their inside shoes to school on the first day.
- Please label your child's shoes.

### **Can I drop my child's lunch off at the office?**

- Please remember to pack your child a lunch and send it with them in the morning.
- If for some reason you forget and need to drop it off, please follow the entrance/safety protocols when coming into the school. You must report directly to the office and not go further into the school.
- Please do your best to not bring lunches from other establishments as this creates a potential higher risk of safety to staff and students

### **Will my child be required to bring all their lunch garbage home?**

- Yes, we will be instituting a pack-in-pack-out program for lunch garbage. Parents may wish to provide a small bag for their child's garbage to protect their lunch bags and backpacks.

### **Should my child wear a mask?**

- The Provincial Health Officer has not recommended that children wear masks and the BC Ministry of Education guidelines say they are optional. If you or your child feel more comfortable wearing one please do so. Two masks will be provided for each student if they request them. **Please do not send personal masks from home unless they abide by the school colours of solid blue, black, or white.** All staff will be encouraging frequent hand washing and good personal hygiene. Some staff may also be wearing masks.

### **Will the children be able to be in shared spaces like the gym, music room, library and computer room?**

- Individual classes will be having music, library and computers. They may on occasion join with the other class in their learning group. Social distancing will be encouraged even in these group settings.
- Music and computer teachers will come into the regular classroom to deliver their program
- These teachers will wear masks

### **What will recess and lunch look like?**

- eating times will be in the classroom with their teacher and students will be required to pack in/pack out
- there will be a Group A and a Group B that will have different times outside
  - Group A recess – 9:30-10:00
  - Group B recess – 10:00-10:30
  - Group A lunch – 11:30-12:00
  - Group B lunch – 12:00-12:30
- both recess and lunch will be 30 minutes outside
- outside times will be with their learning group
- the students/learning groups will rotate daily between the two fields, two playgrounds and the black top
- students will need to remember to stay at their designated area each day

### **Can I volunteer in my child's class?**

- To keep contacts to a minimum, parents are asked to remain outside the school at this time.

### **Will there be year end field trips?**

- At this point field trips will be on hold but we are hoping that we will be able to have some at some point in the school year.

### **What about Assemblies?**

- Unfortunately, assemblies will have to be cancelled this year due to the Provincial Health Officer's guidelines. We are trying to find creative ways to bring the school together through a common theme of kindness.

### **What should I do if my child is not feeling well?**

- Stay at home and away from others if you're feeling ill
  - Don't go to school or work sick
  - Don't forget to call the office to let us know.

**What will happen if a student or staff member in our classroom and/or learning group gets COVID?**

- If and when directed by the Fraser Health Authority, parents will be notified and students/staff will be required to stay home and self quarantine for 14 days.

**How can I prepare my child for this “New Normal”?**

- Please reassure your child that the school has been thoroughly cleaned.
- Explain to your child what social distancing is and try practicing it.
- Teachers are going to be reorganizing their classrooms to encourage social distancing.
- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings and concerns with parents and teachers.