



Dear St. Paul Parents,

On May 15th, the provincial government announced the return of in-class learning to BC schools. Students will be invited to return to school for in-class learning opportunities starting Monday, June 1st . **Please note that parents will continue to have the option of keeping their children at home to engage in remote learning.**

Health and Safety:

The health and safety of our students, staff and families will continue to be our top priority. The government has released two documents that you may wish to review as you are making a decision about sending your child to school in June. Please see the **COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings from the BC Centre for Disease Control** found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-k-12-schools.pdf>

and the **Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings** from the Ministry of Education found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidlines.pdf>.

These documents outline in detail the health and safety requirements that all schools will be required to follow as more students and staff return to schools.

As school districts just recently received these documents, we are finalizing procedures, plans, and protocols for what things will look like at St. Paul School in June. What we do know is we will adhere very carefully to the health and safety guidelines set out in these documents in order to ensure that students and staff remain safe. Further details regarding specific health and safety protocols will be outlined in the St. Paul School Safety Plan, which will be made available to parents during the week of May 25th. This comprehensive plan will include all areas covered in the above noted documents. School will look very, very different to what we know it to be.

Student Schedules:

As student attendance in June is **OPTIONAL** for families, students whose parents choose to send them to school in June will attend on an assigned schedule depending on their grade level. Students will be grouped by family name, so siblings will be assigned to the same groups.

Kindergarten to Gr. 5:

In order to maintain the target density of no greater than 50%, the government has indicated that K to 5 students are only permitted to be in attendance 2-3 days of the week. As a result, students will be invited to attend class **HALF DAYS ONLY** from **Monday through Thursday**. The day will be divided into two sessions: the morning group will be from 9:00 am to 11:30 am, and the

afternoon group will be from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. Each group will alternate each week, with the morning group switching to the afternoon in the second week, and the afternoon group switching to the morning in the second week, and then switching back again the week after. **To simplify, the students will alternate mornings and afternoons each week.**

For example, if your K to Gr. 5 child is assigned to the morning group on June 1st, they will attend school Mon, Tues, Wed, and Thurs, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. (No in-class learning on Fridays). Then switch to afternoons the week after, and so on.

If your K to Gr. 5 child is assigned to the afternoon group on June 1st, they will attend Mon, Tues, Wed, and Thurs from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. (No in-class learning on Fridays), and then switch to the morning group the week after, and so on.

Gr. 6 & 7

The government has indicated that Gr. 6 & 7 students are only permitted in the school one day a week. As a result, Gr. 6 & 7 students will attend **HALF DAYS on Mondays and Tuesdays only**. Group 1 will attend in the mornings on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00 am to 11:30 am, and Group 2 will attend in the afternoons on Mondays and Tuesdays from 12:30 to 3:00 pm. The groups will alternate mornings and afternoons each week. So, if your Gr. 6/7 child is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday mornings on June 1st, they will switch to afternoons the second week, and so on each week. Wednesday through Friday each week will continue with remote learning from home. *We understand that this may be challenging for families who also have children in the younger grades, however please note that this limit of one day/week for Gr. 6 & 7 is a strict Worksafe BC requirement, and therefore Gr. 6&7 students are limited to this time.*

Group assignments will be announced next week. Having half days allows the staff to do a full clean of the facility mid-day (in addition to the regular cleaning and washing of hands that will be constant throughout the day), and provides the opportunity for the students to attend four half days a week (K to 5) and two half days a week (Gr. 6&7), for shorter, more productive periods of time.

I'm sure parents can appreciate the work that is involved in putting this restart plan together, including strict guidelines for occupancy limits and health and safety protocols, so please note that we are unable to accommodate requests for group placements or scheduling.

Expectations for Continued Curriculum Delivery

With classroom teachers now being on site and delivering curriculum in the classroom as of June 1st, the remote learning program that has been in place up until now will change. This doesn't mean that the children who opt to stay home through June will lose out, rather a sustainable and achievable balance will be struck to meet the needs of students both at home and in class. More details to come from your teachers next week.

Use of PPE

Both the Ministry of Education and the Centre for Disease Control has stated that the use of PPE (masks, gloves, face shields) is not necessary for school students or staff at this time. However,

your child is welcome to wear PPE if you choose. Rest assured that strict hand washing, hygiene etiquette and regular sanitizing is a constant part of the school day.

What will be different at School?

While details are still being finalized, here are a few things that students and parents can expect when they return:

- Parents will be required to confirm **every day** that they have assessed the health of their child and that the child is in good health to attend class. **Details of what this will look like will come next week.**
- Any sign of cold or flu symptoms, even if mild, will have the child segregated to an isolation room and the parent called to come and pick up.
- Arrival/dismissal times will be staggered and students will remain in their cars until 5 minutes before start of class. There will be no before/after school supervision.
- Students will be assigned one chair and work space in the classroom for their personal use.
- Use of lockers will not be permitted. Students will keep their school bag beside their chair.
- Stairwells will be one-way use only.
- Maximum occupancy limits will be posted for each room in the school.
- There will be no “recess”. Students will have plenty of opportunity to be outside for exercise, but it will follow strict health and safety guidelines and be teacher-directed.
- Students will eat a mid morning/afternoon snack. There will be no sharing of food, and no outside food permitted for birthday celebrations.
- Lunch is not required as all students will be home over the lunch hour.
- Assembly gatherings in the gym will not happen as we cannot exceed the 50 person limit.
- More information to come next week...

Despite how it looks with the list above, we really are looking forward to opening our doors again! There are just a great many health and safety guidelines that we must be compliant with, so we thank you for your patience.

We understand that you may have other questions about what things will look like if your child returns to school. After the staff works through all the details, additional information will be provided to you next week. We appreciate your patience as we work through the process to

ensure we are able to provide a safe learning and work environment for students and staff as they return to school. As always, I am most grateful for the support and collaboration of the St. Paul parent community as we continue to work together through these very unusual circumstances.

Now that you have a preliminary picture of what the return to school will look like on June 1st, we ask that **EVERY FAMILY** complete the following survey by **this Sunday, May 24th at 4:00 pm. Please click on the link below:**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_3QIEzNJMUaXG_JqpkPvVEGOw09qAhP5XKa9F4C8ITxLug/viewform?usp=sf_link

Thank you, and we will be in touch again next week.

Yours in faith,

Maureen Moorehead.