

August 12, 2020

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!

Dear Parents,

Re: Khalsa Schools of BC – Restart Plans

In June 2020, students voluntarily returned to school and online instruction continued for those who were not returning to school. On July 29th The Ministry of Education has announced that students will be returning to school in person this Fall. The Ministry is moving forward with instruction in person as this helps minimize learning gaps and provide the academic, social and emotional supports for learning for students.

As per Ministry guidelines, Khalsa Schools of BC, alongside all other public and independent schools will not be providing online (Zoom instruction) to students when schools open in September. Students will be going to their homeroom classes and be assigned to a learning group. This is a group of students and staff who will interact with each other and remain together throughout the day.

In strict compliance to the guidelines set out by the Provincial Health Officer and Work Safe BC, please be guided by the following “New Normal” routine at Khalsa School Newton campus.

- Parents will be requested to complete a quick Health Check log daily stating that their children are not displaying any symptoms associated with Covid-19.
- Parents will be asked to provide an emergency number where the school must be able to reach them throughout the day in case a child is unwell. Students cannot be kept in the sick room throughout the day.
- All parents will need to drop off their children outside. This ensures that students are not being exposed to any community contacts.
- The students play areas/lunch areas will be assigned and will not exceed a group of 60 people (Learning Group) - Gurdwara Sahib assembly is included in this.
- The Ministry has not mandated masks in schools; however, for students in Grade 4 and above we will strongly be recommending masks be worn especially in common areas. We will be providing each Khalsa School student with 2 free reusable cloth masks.
- All of our subject teachers will be wearing face shields and distancing from students.
- The school will be disinfected at the end of each day so your child will come to a clean disinfected school every morning. This includes desks, counters, etc.
- High touch surfaces like door handles, bathrooms stall handles, toilet handles, etc., will be disinfected twice a day.

- Timetables will be staggered so there are less students in the hallway.
- KG is a new experience for all students, if you feel that your child will benefit from gradual entry for the first week, we will work with you to ensure your child feels comfortable in their new learning environment.
- All students, in particular students in KG/1, should label their school supplies and place daily use items in a Ziploc bag. This bag will be sent home daily for sanitization.
- Parents of KG students, should send an extra pair of uniform with their child, for emergency purposes.
- Parents are encouraged to review hand washing techniques prior to the start of the school starting.
- There will be directional arrows in the hallways so that students do not bump into each other in the halls.
- We will ask our bus students to wear masks. Bus drivers will wear shields. There will be assigned seating and buses will be disinfected after each trip.
- We will ensure children are with their learning groups. We ask each parent to talk to their child and explain how important it is to listen to their teachers.
- Each child will need to bring their own lunch. No cafeteria service or monthly langar will be provided until we have different direction from the Provincial Health Officer.

The Ministry will continue to provide guidelines. Another announcement about the start of school will be made by August 26, 2020. We will update parents on that date also.

We strongly encourage you to contact the school, to address any questions or concerns you may have.

- Jagir Kaur Bajwa, Principal, jbajwa@khalsaschool.ca
- Corazon Pabo, Vice Principal, cpabo@khalsaschool.ca
- Satinder Dhillion Bhatia, Vice Principal, skbhatia@khalsaschool.ca
- Jasbir Kaur, Religion Head, jasbirkaur@khalsaschool.ca
- Dale Cope, Head Teacher, dcope@khalsaschool.ca

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to a successful 2020-21 school year. It will look different, but we look back to welcoming our students in a safe manner so that we can get back to learning!

Note: The uniform will be open on August 19th 2020 (9am – 3pm). We will be giving parents until September 30th to purchase uniforms to ensure proper physical distancing is observed.

Sincerely,

Khalsa School Newton Administration