

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!

Dear Khalsa Secondary School 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. The Ministry of Education has announced that students will be returning to school in September 2020 **in-person**. It is important for our children to have routine in their lives and be able to socialize with their peers. The Ministry is moving forward with instruction in person because evidence shows that keeping students home and out of school has an impact on their social emotional wellness.

As per Ministry guidelines, Khalsa Schools of BC, alongside all other public and independent schools will be open 100%. If your child is immune compromised or you have feel uncomfortable sending your child to school, please contact us at (604) 585-8200.

We understand parents have questions and concerns about the return to school environment that their children will be in and precautions that will be taken to protect students and staff. As the summer goes by, more and more guidelines will be issued by the Ministry and we will comply with all of these guidelines and keep parents up to date. Here is the plan that has been approved:

- We will be changing our Semester system to a Quarter system, so students will have 2 classes for 10 weeks. They will complete a total of 8 classes throughout the academic year.
- Our learning cohorts will be a maximum of 60 students.
- Students will be required to wear masks in common areas such as bathrooms, hallways, lunch time (even if playing outside), etc. We will be providing each Khalsa School student with 2 free reusable cloth masks and be asking students to wear masks.
- We will be following all Provincial Health Officer orders and guidelines
- Parents will be asked to sign a form that acknowledges that they will not send their child to school sick.
- Each parent will provide two emergency numbers 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.**
- Only students and staff will be allowed onto the campus 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.
- When students change from their morning to afternoon classes, their desks will be disinfected at that time and also every evening.
- Each classroom will have a disinfecting station.
- Our teachers will be wearing face shields or masks and/or distancing from students to reduce the number of people students come in contact with.
- The school will be disinfected every day at the end of the day so your child will come to a clean and 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.
- The number of students in bathrooms will be limited. Students will be told what bathroom they can use while in each class so we can reduce interaction amongst cohorts.

- Timetables will be staggered so there are less students in the hallway. Grade 8/9 students will have class change at a different time than Grade 10/11/12 students.
- There will be directional arrows in the hallways so that students do not bump into each other in the halls.
- Our bus students must wear masks. Bus drivers will wear shields. There will be assigned seating and buses will be disinfected after each trip. Each student will be asked health questions before they board the bus. If a child is unwell, they will need to be picked up.
- Each child will need to bring their own lunch and **no cafeteria service** or monthly langar will be provided until further notice.
- Students cannot order food out from Skip the Dishes, Door Dash, etc. as this means our students and school are being exposed to more community contacts when the driver comes to drop off food.
- If parents would like to drop off lunch, it has to be dropped off in the office before lunch time.
- Keertan and Tabla classes will continue, but we are working on sanitization protocols for the instruments.
- At this time, we will not be offering Gatka during Gurdwara blocks.
- Students will only be in the Gurdwara with their grades; therefore, the Gurdwara period schedule will be different than last year.

Our schools will be starting on September 8th and Orientation directions will be sent by email. Our teachers will be in school as of September 1st preparing and receiving orientation on all health and safety protocols. A more detailed schedule will be sent out near the end of August.

As we get closer and closer to the start of school, we will update all parents through email.

We strongly encourage you to contact us in regards to any questions or concerns you may have. We are open from 8 – 4 pm Monday to Friday. You can also email us. Below is our office number and email contacts:

- Khalsa Secondary School Office - 604-585-8200
- Principal, gkmalik@khalsaschool.ca

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to a successful school year next year. We need your cooperation and support and every student's cooperation to ensure everyone is safe in these challenging times! It will look different, but we look back to welcoming our students in a safe manner so that we can get back to learning!

Sincerely,

Khalsa Secondary School administration