

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!

Dear Khalsa School Parents,

Re: Khalsa School Old Yale Road – 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 routines 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 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 not be providing online (Zoom instruction) to students when schools open in September.

The following statement is from FISABC:

“We have received ministerial confirmation that independent schools may maintain their existing calendars and welcome students back prior to September 10th.”

Please note that our school will start from September 8 for students. Detailed orientation schedule will be sent to you in the next email.

Our uniform office will open from September 20, we advise you to buy uniform and pay the bus fee before September 08 as the parents will not be allowed to enter the building afterward. We advise you to buy minimum 4 sets of uniform so that children wear neat clothes.

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 the guidelines and keep parents up to date. Here is what we are planning to date:

- We will be following all Provincial Health Officer orders and guidelines.
- Parents will sign one form at the beginning of the school year saying they will not send their child/children to school sick.
- 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.
- 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.

- Students will be with their homeroom teachers throughout the day. Their play areas during PE and Lunch hours will be assigned. Only one class will be using that area.
- Students will wash their hands before entering the classrooms and sanitize their hands before going out to play.
- Less than 60 students will go to the Gurdwara Sahib daily but at different times.
- 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. We will request the parents to wash their mask daily.
- All our teachers will be wearing face shields and distancing from students.
- Subject teachers (including French and Punjabi) will go to the homerooms and teach students by keeping the social distance as advised by the Fraser Health authorities.
- Every classroom will have a surface sanitizer and a hand sanitizer for students and teachers to be used whenever required.
- High touch surfaces like door handles, bathrooms stall handles, toilet handles, etc, will be disinfected twice a day.
- The school will be disinfected every day at the end of the day so your child will come to a clean disinfected school every morning. This includes desks, counters, etc.
- Every day, your child will carry lunch kit ONLY to and from home as the students' notebooks, workbooks and textbooks will be kept in school. Homework will be project based.
- All school supplies of every child must be packed in a rubber bin with all the essential needs and MUST BE brought by the parents/students to the school on the orientation days. Orientation schedule for each grade level will be shared with you in the next email.
- Timetables will be staggered so there are less students in the hallway.
- There will be directional arrows in the hallways so that students do not bump into each other in the halls.
- All bus students will wear masks. Bus drivers will wear shields. There will be assigned seating and buses will be disinfected after each trip.
- We will be responsible for keeping track of where every child is throughout the day as every student will remain in their assigned areas, so we know exactly who they are with.
- Each child **MUST** bring their own lunch, snacks, and extra water bottles as there will be **No Cafeteria** service and monthly langar 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 you on that date also.

We strongly encourage you to contact the school as mentioned below:

- Khalsa School Old Yale Road: KamalPreet Kaur Baga, Principal 604-951-2333, kkbaga@khalsaschool.ca

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to a successful school year next 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!