



Hello Middle School Parents,

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break and were able to make the best of a sunny but restricted summer holiday. But most importantly, I hope that you are safe and well.

The upcoming school year is sure to be unique. There's a level of excitement as we venture into uncharted educational territory, but there's also a degree of anxiousness given the situation we find ourselves in. I feel grateful to be able to work with the staff at Meadowridge and have all the confidence in the world in our teachers' ability to maintain a rigorous academic program while keeping the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students as the top priority.

There is a lot of information about the upcoming school year that will be communicated to you as parents. Much of this information can be found through the BC Back to School Plan and BC Health and Safety Guidelines. This letter is intended to summarize some of this information and give you a better sense of what this school year is going to look like for your child at Meadowridge. More information will come as the year unfolds.

### **Daily Schedules and Routines**

Given the most recent announcement from the BC Minister of Education regarding the return to school plan, we have modified our daily schedule and routines to create a safe learning environment for our students and staff. Outlined below are some of the most relevant details.

At Meadowridge, each grade level in the Middle School will represent a separate cohort. Students in the same cohort can interact with each other without having to maintain social distance but need to limit all physical contact. We have created structures and routines (outlined below) that will reduce and limit the interaction between students of different cohorts.

Staggered arrival and dismissal. To minimize the integration of students from multiple cohorts, we have staggered the arrival time for Elementary, Middle, and High School students. Students in Grades 6 to 12 must wear a face mask when entering the school.

### **Middle School Schedule**

#### **Drop-off from 8:15am to 8:25am**

First class starts at 8:30am

#### **Pick-up from 3:30pm to 3:40pm**

Students must leave school promptly at dismissal. Students are not allowed to stay after school. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff is paramount, so this will be a strict expectation.

**Passing periods.** We have staggered the class dismissal for each cohort in the Middle School to minimize hallway interactions between cohorts. All Middle and High School students are required to wear face masks when traveling from one class to another.



**Morning recess.** Students will not have access to the cafeteria during morning recess so all students must bring their own drinks and snacks for morning recess. During morning recess, students will be able to socialize with students within their cohort in their advisory classrooms.

**Lunch and lunch recess.** To reduce the number of students in the cafeteria during lunch, Grade 8 students will now eat lunch first, followed by the Grade 6 and 7 classes. There will be an indoor and an outdoor eating space to accommodate multiple cohorts to eat at the same time.

**Use of lockers.** Students will be allowed to use a locker while at school, but access will be limited to certain times of the day and students will not be allowed to congregate or socialize at their lockers for extended periods of time. The outside of the lockers will be cleaned and sanitized periodically throughout the day.

**Change rooms and school uniforms.** To minimize changeroom use and access, students are allowed to wear their PHE strip on days when they have PHE. After PHE class, students are to change into their regular school uniform.

## Health And Safety

Maintaining the health and safety of the Meadowridge community will continue to be our top priority for this year. We will adhere to the guidance provided by the Minister of Education as well as the Minister of Health to provide the safest learning environment for our students and staff.

- **Washing/sanitizing hands.** Frequent handwashing continues to be a key strategy to minimize the spread of COVID-19. At Meadowridge, all students are required to wash and/or sanitize their hands upon entering the school at the start of the day as well as anytime they enter or leave a classroom. The school is fully equipped to increase the frequency of handwashing and sanitizing.
- **Sanitizing classrooms and common areas.** High-traffic areas within the school will be frequently cleaned and sanitized throughout the day by the school custodial team. Desks within the classrooms will be sprayed and cleaned at the end of each class.
- **Social distancing.** Although students are not required to maintain social distance when interacting with students within their cohort, they must maintain social distance when coming into contact with students from a different cohort. As a school, we have attempted to create structures and routines that will minimize the potential of this interaction between cohorts and we will continue to encourage social distancing consistently throughout the day.
- **Wearing masks.** All students in Grades 6 to 12 and all staff are required to wear face masks when traveling through common areas of the school. Students are not required to wear face masks when interacting with students inside their own learning cohort (i.e. – during class, at lunch, etc.)

## Teaching and Learning

We are excited to be able to teach your children face-to-face this school year. Our teachers love interacting with the students and it was greatly missed at the end of last year. It is our current understanding from the BC Ministry of Education that schools are not to provide both an at-home learning program as well as in-class instruction. However, this is something that is being currently reviewed by the Ministry of Education and we will adapt and change as advised.

- **Timetables.** Timetables have been created with the focus being offering the rich learning environment that you have come to expect at Meadowridge, while also minimizing cohort interaction.
- **Group Work.** All classes will be taught in person with a mindfulness of limiting in-person group activities and being creative in the delivery of some of the content.
- **Technology.** We will continue to make use of the technology that we have purchased in order to create a rich learning environment.

## Clubs, Athletics and Field Trips

A well-rounded educational experience is an integral part of a Meadowridge education and we hope to continue to offer some version of co-curricular clubs as well as athletics.

- **Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) Clubs.** These activities will continue to be scheduled during the regular school day and will be organized by learning cohorts to limit the interaction between different cohorts.
- **Athletics.** Although schools are currently unable to compete in interscholastic athletic competition, we will continue to seek out creative ways to engage our student-athletes in competitive and recreational competition. The health and safety of our students will be a top priority in developing athletic activities.
- **Field Trips.** A hallmark of the Meadowridge experience is the traditional Week Without Walls Trips (WWOW) at the start of the school year. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel all of the WWOW trips for this Fall and instead have scheduled shortened, single day outdoor experiences that will be held on campus with our service providers. These shorter activities will still provide an opportunity for students to experience the outdoors while being able to bond and create relationships with their classmates.

Typically, at the start of each school year, we invite all parents to attend the Parent Information Night during the first week of school. It is unfortunate that we are unable to host that event in person this year, but you can anticipate this information being shared with you by the Principal, your child's advisory teacher, or grade-level team.

Many of you are likely eager to find out who your child's advisory teacher will be this year. This information will be published to The Hub on Wednesday, September 2 and full class lists will be given on the first day of school, which is Tuesday, September 8.

I appreciate that this is a lot of information to process and assume that there are many questions that still need to be answered. This letter is intended to provide a snapshot of what this school year is going to look like and outlines some of the steps we have taken to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff. We anticipate this being an evolving process throughout the year and all of us need to be prepared to adjust and adapt as circumstances may change. I want to thank you in advance for your continued support of Meadowridge school and I look forward to getting to work with your children again this year. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Scott Rinn  
Middle School Principal