

August 25th, 2021

Dear Oak Bay Families:

I would like to welcome all of our staff, students and families to a new school year, with a special welcome to those of you who are new to the Oak Bay family. You are joining a wonderful school community and I am confident Oak Bay will provide a positive and successful experience for each of you.

I wanted to send this message out today as there is a fair amount to share about the upcoming school year. I will send another message next week with more details about the first day of school etc. Earlier this week, the Ministry of Education and Health provided updated health and safety guidelines for the upcoming school year. We are continuing to work through the documents and do not have all the answers but as a school community we will work to ensure that we follow all health and safety guidelines and that student/staff safety is our first priority.

For the start of the school year, the following will be the same:

- All staff, students and visitors will be required to wear a mask when indoors. This includes when at their desk.
- Daily health checks are to be completed each day by all staff, students and visitors.
- Anyone who does not feel well is asked not to come to school.
- Hand hygiene is to be practiced regularly

The following will be different:

- Students will be at school full time every day.
- School athletics will be allowed to return, provided we follow relevant health guidelines. (More details about school athletics will follow in the future)
- There will be no learning cohorts
- We will be following a semester timetable, not quarterly like we did last year. A copy of our timetable will be sent out next week
- Physical distancing (2 meter/6 feet) will not be required, but we will encourage everyone to respect each other's personal space and will encourage as much learning as possible to occur outdoors.

I would like to highlight the importance of being vaccinated in helping to ensure we have a safe school year. I would encourage anyone who is eligible and who is not yet fully vaccinated to please do so.

Student Timetables:

School administration and staff are working on ensuring student timetables are complete and have the required courses they need. Timetables will be available for pick up outside the main office next Wednesday, September 1st (12:00 to 3:00pm) and on Thursday, September 2nd and Friday, September 3rd (9:00am to 3:00pm both days). Binders will be organized by grade and in alpha order.

Copies of student schedules will be handed out on the first day of school for any student who has not picked up their timetable previously.

Course Change Requests:

Course change request forms will be available when students pick up their timetables or on the first day of school. The course change form needs to be completed at home and brought back to the office. The form can also be completed, scanned and returned electronically to OakBayInfo@sd61.bc.ca.

We will be prioritizing those requests that affect Semester 1 courses as well as incomplete timetables.

First Day of School (Tuesday September 7th)

A reminder that on the first day of school students will attend at the following times. Details about where to meet will be sent out next week.

Grade 9 - 10:30am to 12:30pm

Grade 10 to 12 - 9:30 am to 10:00am

Students not returning to Oak Bay

If your child will not be attending Oak Bay High this coming year and you have not yet let the office know can you please contact the school at 250-598-3361 or oakbayinfo@sd61.bc.ca

Additional information

For more details on the back to school plan, please visit:

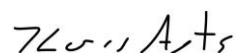
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0058-001663>

Please find attached two letters from Interim Superintendent of Schools Ms. Deb Whitten

- **Back to School Plan for the 2021-22 School Year**
- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – All Schools Closed on September 30, 2021**

As mentioned, I will be sending out another message next week with more details about our first week of school and how our semester timetable will work. In the meantime, I hope that you are able to enjoy the remainder of your summer and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

I am very much looking forward to the return of students and staff for a great year.



Tom Aerts

Principal

taerts@sd61.bc.ca