



QUEEN MARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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2022-09-02

Dear Queen Mary Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We are all very excited for the start of the new school year. Staff have been busy preparing the school for the return of students and know that this will be an amazing year!

We wanted to share out the information about the first days of school for the 2022/23 school year, so you had it close at hand. Please take the time to read the information below.

Tuesday, September 6 (First Day Back)

Students in Grades 1-7 attend from 9-10am (1hr)

- **Returning students in Grades 1-7** are expected at school from 9-10am. Please line up outside at your division sign from last year where teachers will come to meet you.
 - Div. 1, 2, 3 – West side of brick building (playground)
 - Div. 4, 5 – North side of brick building (space ball)
 - Div. 6, 7 – Basketball courts
 - Div. 8, 11 - South side of the school, door/walkway between the new and brick buildings
 - Div. 9, 10 - South side of the school, brick building
 - Div. 12, 13 / - North side of brick building (undercover area)
- **New students in Grade 1-7**, please join us at the front doors of the school (new building) where we will take attendance and provide families with a school orientation.
- **PAC Coffee** – please join members of our PAC for a meet and greet coffee just after 9am near the front entrance of the new building.

Kindergarten Students attend from 10:30-11:00am

- **Students and parents** will meet teachers outside the main school entrance (newer building).

****IMPORTANT NOTE:** If your child will not be attending on September 6, please make sure you contact the office as soon as possible. Families with children who are absent beyond the first day of school need to have completed a [NOTICE OF LATE RETURN](#) to ensure their space is held.

Starting Wednesday, September 7

- Full days for all students in **Grades 1-7**. All students will meet teachers in the same location as September 6 (returning to last years division, new to the front doors)

8:57am – Welcome Bell
9:00am – Start of the Day
10:30am – 10:50am – Recess
12:05pm – 12:52pm – Lunch
3:03pm - Dismissal

Please ensure that students are dressed & prepared to be outside each day during recess & lunch breaks.

- **Kindergarten** students begin their gradual entry program (please refer to the schedule as provided in June)

Queen Mary School has typically been able to have students move to their new classes early in the first week of school, often on the first full day. This year, for various reasons, we have some extra work to do to ensure our organization, staffing and classrooms are fully in place before moving students to their new classes. This work will result in a delay from previous years. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we complete this complicated process as quickly but as accurately as possible.

Until students move into their new classes, they will be engaging in a variety of learning opportunities together with Queen Mary teachers, students, and staff.

COVID 19 Update

The Vancouver School District and Queen Mary Elementary continue to follow the guidance of the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the BC Centre for Disease Control and Vancouver Coastal Health in putting in place measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The BC Centre for Disease Control updated [guidance](#) for the K-12 sector indicates that, “Transmission within K-12 schools settings accounts for a minority of COVID-19 cases even amongst students and staff.”

Measures that will continue to be in place for the coming school year include reminders to all staff, students, and their families to monitor their health daily and to stay home if they are ill. Information about COVID-19 symptoms can be found on the [BCCDC website](#). Students who become ill during the school day will be asked to wear a mask and wait in a supervised area, away from other students, until they can be picked up by a parent or guardian.

Staff will continue to remind students of the importance of regular hand washing/hand sanitizing and of coughing/sneezing into their elbow or a tissue. We will continue to ensure school sinks are well stocked with soap and that hand sanitizer is available. Staff will also continue to remind students to be respectful of others’ personal space while going through daily school activities.

Wearing a mask, other than what is recommended by public health, is an important personal health choice for students and families. Some staff and students will choose to wear a mask throughout the day or for certain activities. Others will choose not to wear a mask. Individual decisions around mask wearing will be supported and respected at Queen Mary Elementary.

Clean air and proper ventilation is an important part of the prevention measures in all Vancouver schools. During the past months, District staff have undertaken the refurbishment and rehabilitation of

ventilation equipment in all schools and will continue to install new ventilation and heating equipment in portables. Air filters in schools have been upgraded and are replaced three times per year.

More information on COVID-19 prevention measures in Vancouver schools can be found [here](#).

General Reminders (just three for now)

School Supplies – Queen Mary purchases and provides all students with the necessary materials for daily learning activities such as pencils, crayons and notebooks with school fees that will be requested later in September – please watch for that notice coming soon. Personal items such as lunch kits, backpacks etc. are supplied by families.

School Visitors – Any visitors to the school during the school day should be by appointment and are required to check in at the school office. We appreciate help from families in maintaining a focused learning environment where independence is valued and supported for students. For this reason, we ask that families plan to say their hellos and good-byes in the drop-off areas outside of the school building.

Late Sign-In / Early Sign-Out

If your child arrives at school after 9:00am, please remind them to sign in at the office before heading to their classroom. If you would like to pick up your child before the regular school dismissal time, please call ahead and/or come to the office so we can call for your child and ensure they are signed out.

As we start the school year, please take the time check communication channels regularly (email, paper notices etc). There will be a flurry of messages in the next little while as we get things rolling. Thank you for your time and attention to this during this busy time.

Have a safe long weekend and enjoy each other!

Elyssa Derban
Principal
Queen Mary Elementary