

****Please do not respond to the email. For inquiries, please call the Main Office at 604-713-5390****

Dear Parents/Guardians of Tecumseh Students!

In a blink of an eye, June is upon us! It was so wonderful to see the smiling and happy faces of students back at school this week! Without the pulse and vibrancy that students and staff provide collectively, a school is only a physical structure. We were glad to be able to feel that pulse again at Tecumseh as we navigate our new/current “normal”.

We understand and respect the decisions made by our families. For our families who may have changed their decision regarding the gradual return to school in June (from “no” to “yes” or from “yes” to “no”), please feel welcome to contact the school to express your wishes. We will adjust our plans accordingly to honour your decisions in a timely manner. As a reminder, at Tecumseh, our K—5 students are scheduled to attend voluntary in-person instruction on Mondays and Tuesdays (full day) and our Grade 6/7 students are scheduled to attend voluntary in-person instruction once per week, on Wednesdays (full day). Thank you, parents/guardians for remembering not to enter the school building when dropping your child(ren) off at school or when picking them up at the end of the day. **It is important to continue to minimize the number of non-VSB adults in our school buildings.**

We continue to welcome a small cohort of children of our Essential Service Worker families throughout the week. To all of our Essential Service Worker families, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for the work you do!

The month of June is a busy month in typical times, and even during a pandemic, it is no different. Our teachers and staff continue to support our students on-line and in-person. Year-end summative report cards continue to be written, albeit simpler versions this June due to the Covid-19 landscape. The school continues preparations for the next school year, that includes casting students into next year’s classes. In this communication, I have included an explanation of the class casting process we use at Tecumseh. The goal of our careful, collaborative process is to create balanced classes that best address the needs of our students.

We have received much feedback from our families expressing gratitude to our teachers/staff for being able to so effectively and quickly pivot to the new landscape we encountered following Spring Break. I am very proud of our team here at Tecumseh. We continue to do our best for our students.

We are very grateful for your support.

Be safe and well.

Sincerely,

Mr. V. Edwards
Principal

An explanation of the Class Casting process:

In June of each year, we begin the process of planning for the next school year. Tecumseh staff works very hard to make the best possible placement for your child.

There are many factors to consider when generating class compositions. They include: academic progress, individual learning styles, classroom interactions between students, specific learning needs in different areas, a balance of students requiring English Language Learner and Learning Assistance support, and information provided by the children and parents. **This is not an easy task. Tecumseh staff invests a great deal of time and thought into this process.** It is not a perfect process as there are many variables to consider in our school population; however, our staff considers the individual needs and nature of each child.

The way in which the number of divisions and grade levels are determined is directly dependent upon the number of students registered at the school, the number of staff members assigned by the Vancouver School Board and the contractual rules for class configuration. Sometimes, combined classes are necessary based on our student enrollment and staffing allotment. Placement in a combined class does not reflect in any way your child's academic ability. Placement in a combined class at the lower grade does not mean that your child will cover the curriculum of the upper grade or receive an advanced program. The same holds true for a student who is in the upper end of a split class - your child does not receive a non-advanced program because students from a lower grade are in the same classroom; nor will your child be academically penalized by being placed into the combination class, rather than a straight grade class. More information regarding Combined (split) Classes can be found here:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/General_Resources/combined-class/Pages/default.aspx

Our teachers and staff do an excellent job of placing all of our students. Make sure that your child's current classroom teacher has all pertinent information about your child. Please also make sure your classroom teacher is aware of any concerns you may have about academic and emotional vulnerability or behavioural/social conflicts so that these factors may be considered in placing students. Please note, we do not place students based on wanting to be with a best friend, however, a level of social connection with known peers is considered for every student.

If you feel it is necessary to make a written request, please ensure that it is accompanied by an educational rationale for the placement. Please know, a written request is not a guarantee of placement but an acknowledgement of your interest and hope for your child.

Thank you for your support as we strive to create the best possible learning environment for all the students in our school.

Elementary Students Assessment of Learning

The continuation of learning and assessment of student learning during the COVID-19 response is important. When it comes to assessing students' learning and providing final grades, teachers will recognize and reflect the following learning goals:

- Learning Together: A partnership between families and educators
- Learning in a New Space: A journey with many pathways of curiosity and exploration
- Learning for All: An opportunity for engagement and connections for all students

A very informative Question and Answer section of the Vancouver School Board website can be found here:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Learning/Continuity_of_Learning/Pages/tips-for-parents.aspx

For Up-to-date Information from the District

Please continue to check the following websites:

- [Vancouver School Board](#)
- [Vancouver School Board: Covid-19 Updates](#)
- [Vancouver School Board: Continuity of Learning](#)
- [Vancouver School Board's YouTube Channel](#)