



# Davie Jones Elementary School

12030 Blakely Road, Pitt Meadows, B.C. V3Y 1J6  
Phone 604-465-9908 Fax: 604-465-3591 <http://daviejones.sd42.ca>  
<https://twitter.com/DavieJonesSD42>,  
Principal: Ms. Cathryn Blanco

September 10, 2021

Dear DJE Parents & Guardians:

It was wonderful to see all the students return this week.

I know that the return to school comes with a range of emotions but I want to assure you that we are committed to supporting every student as we start this new school year together.

We have spent the last several weeks working hard to prepare our school for start-up and I am writing today to share key information to support a great start for our students and families.

## **SCHEDULE AND CLASS PLACEMENT NOTIFICATION:**

- **September 10:** All Grade 1 – 7 students will be brought down to their NEW classroom right after recess.
  - Kindergarten students are doing a *gradual* entry and have been sent individual schedules for the coming week. Their first full day of attendance will be September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **September 13:** Regular daily attendance for all Grade 1 – 7 students in their new classroom.

### **2021-2022 Hours of Operation**

Doors Open:	8:25 a.m.
Instruction Begins:	8:30 a.m.
Primary Recess:	10:00 – 10:15 a.m.
Intermediate Recess:	10:20 – 10:35 a.m.
** Lunch Break:	11:55 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.
	(** Intermediates Play First/Eat Later; Primaries Eat First/Play Later)
Dismissal:	2:25 p.m.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES:**

**(as shared on the parent portal last week by our Superintendent of Schools, Harry Dhillon)**

Updated COVID-19 guidelines for K-12 schools were recently announced by the Government and are detailed in the Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings document. Key measures include the following:

- **COHORTS:** Cohorts, also known as learning groups, are no longer recommended by public health as a COVID-19 mitigation measure and will not be used.
- **MASKS:** All K-12 staff, visitors, and **all students in grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas of the school and on school buses.** Students in kindergarten to Grade 3 are *encouraged* to wear masks. Exceptions to the mask requirements are outlined on page 20 of the provincial guidelines.
- **DAILY HEALTH CHECKS:** Daily health checks are required before students/staff come to school. A daily health check list is posted to the school district website and on all school websites.
- **HAND HYGIENE:** Diligent hand hygiene will continue to be emphasized with hand-washing encouraged upon school entry, before/after breaks, before/after eating, after using washrooms, and after touching shared equipment.
- **PHYSICAL DISTANCING:** Although public health no longer recommends strict physical distancing of two meters, schools will use strategies to help with respecting personal space, including using available learning spaces and making use of outdoor space as appropriate.
- **CLEANING:** General cleaning, as well as cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, will occur at least once in a 24-hour period and when visibly dirty.
- **VENTILATION:** Ventilation systems in all school district facilities meet WorkSafeBC requirements and requirements as set out in the provincial guidelines with all air filters continuing to be replaced on a regular basis.
- **VACCINATIONS:** According to public health, vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and communities. Public health strongly encourages all eligible students (12+) and staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Registration is available:
  - Online through the Get Vaccinated portal
  - By calling 1-833-838-2323
  - In person at any Service BC location
  - People can also be immunized at drop-in vaccine clinics throughout the province
- **TARGETED MEASURES:** Local public health orders may be put in place for entire regions or communities, including schools, as determined by the Medical Health Officer.

- **VISITORS**: We will be continuing to carefully manage and document visitors in our schools in alignment with current provincial guidelines. Entry into Davie Jones Elementary by individuals other than staff and students is still restricted *at this time*. If you need to speak to your child's teacher, please call the school and leave a message **OR**, email your child's teacher to make appropriate arrangements.

Office hours for our Admin Assistant - Mrs. Loven and Admin Clerk - Mrs. Vernon are 7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. We are fortunate in the fact that we have a window right beside Mrs. Loven's desk if you need to speak to someone 'face to face'.

### **SCHOOL DAY AND ENTRY/EXIT PROCEDURES:**

Daily, at 8:25 a.m., teachers will greet their class at their designated location and supervise controlled entry into the school and their classroom. The same procedure will be followed daily at 2:25 p.m. for dismissal where teachers will supervise their class group outdoors to the same location to be greeted by parents/caregivers.

### **WHAT SHOULD YOUR CHILD BRING TO SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 13?**

Please ensure that your child brings the following items to school:

- a morning snack and lunch.
- personal water bottle with your child's name on it (we have a filtered water 'bottle filler' on our fountain by the front entrance)
- your child's school supplies if not brought in already.

Next week we will be going outside to review health and safety protocols, as well as entry and exit procedures for recess and lunch. Please ensure that your child does not bring any toys to school at this time.

### **WEATHER APPROPRIATE CLOTHING/CHANGE OF CLOTHES:**

Fall is right around the corner and the weather can be unpredictable. We are a *West Coast Recess & Lunch* school and the students DO go outside rain or shine. Please ensure that your child has a bagged, spare set of clothing with them at all times.

### **SCHOOL PLANNERS:**

The planners should be arriving from the distributor within the next few days. Note that NOT all classrooms will be using them (teacher's choice) but for those that do, **the cost is \$7.00**. Payment can be made via cash, cheque (made out to Davie Jones Elementary School) or via the Parent Portal – this will be set up on the portal to receive payments next week.

Due to the fact that the planners were ordered in May, recent changes to the calendar will not be reflected in the planners themselves. A revised school calendar will be put on the Parent Portal and on the school's website next week.

## **PERSONAL ELECTRONICS AT SCHOOL:**

Students are NOT to use their personal electronics (smart phones, gaming devices, etc.) during the school day from 8:30 a.m. to 2:25 p.m. These items, if brought to school, must be stored in their backpacks until dismissal. Students can get permission to call home from the office from a staff member and must bring a phone permission slip to the office to do so. Students who wish to make after school arrangements need to do that from home BEFORE they come to school. Students will not be given permission to make lunch and/or afterschool social arrangements as miscommunication often occurs which can compromise student safety.

## **ATTENDANCE/REPORTING ABSENCES:**

If your child will not be attending school due to illness, a medical appointment or for any other reason, please advise the school **prior to 8:30 a.m.**:

- *via the Parent Portal*
- *via telephone: 604-465-9908; or*
- *by emailing the office staff at: [dj\\_reception@sd42.ca](mailto:dj_reception@sd42.ca)*

Attendance will be taken by your child's teacher twice daily (a.m. and p.m.). We follow up with parents on all absences not already reported to the school. \*\* Please be sure to email the office [dj\\_reception@sd42.ca](mailto:dj_reception@sd42.ca) regarding an absence or early dismissal as your child's teacher does not always have time to read their email in the morning or, they may be absent themselves.

If your child is only a few minutes late, please ask them to report directly to their classroom and the teacher will mark them in. If they arrive after 8:45, they must check in at the office first.

## **PARENT PORTAL:**

Virtually everything is now done via the parent portal. The portal enables authorized parents/guardians to:

- complete the *required* school consent forms
- receive group messages from your child's teacher
- receive the weekly newsletter (WAAG – Week at a Glance)
- receive important School District announcements
- receive report cards
- book times for Parent-Teacher Conference time (early December and March); and
- to make secure online payments.

If you do not have a Parent Portal account yet – please go to <http://parents.sd42.ca> and click on the Parent tab, then ***select New Parent Registration***.

Once you have opened an account, you must link your child to this account to finalize the process. You can request a linking key and additional information about how to link your child to your Parent Portal account from our Admin Clerk, Mrs. Vernon at [rebecca\\_vernon@sd42.ca](mailto:rebecca_vernon@sd42.ca).

**WAAG (Week at a Glance):**

Our Admin Assistant, Mrs. Loven, sends out a Week at a Glance *via the Parent Portal* on Fridays with reminders regarding upcoming events and items of note so stay tuned for that to start within the coming weeks.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [cathryn\\_blanco@sd42.ca](mailto:cathryn_blanco@sd42.ca) if you have any questions regarding the above.

Sincerely,

*Cathryn Blanco*

Davie Jones Elementary Principal