



THOMAS HANEY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Member of the Canadian Coalition of Self-Directed Learning

Principal: Mr. Grant Frend

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On behalf of the staff at THSS, we would like to wish you a Happy New Year and thank you for your understanding and patience with our delayed return to school after the winter break. We look forward to welcoming your child(ren) on Monday, January 10th, 2022. This letter follows the letter sent by our Superintendent, Mr. Dhillon, yesterday. I ask that you please review the information in this letter with your child before they come to school on Monday.

Our staff has been busy reviewing the expectations regarding enhanced safety measures and making plans for implementing these enhanced measures (these measures are detailed below). As well, our teachers have been making adjustments to their end of semester planning to acknowledge our additional week away from school. We have two and a half weeks left in this semester and we will be evaluating these enhanced health and safety measures as we go.

As mentioned in Mr. Dhillon's email, there may be the need for a temporary functional closure and this would be communicated to you directly through the Parent Portal the same day (day 1) we determine that staffing levels are insufficient. We will request at the time that you keep your child home the next day (day 2) so that staff can prepare to switch to online/remote learning. On day 3, online learning would begin and continue over 7 calendar days. I will provide you with more detailed information should a functional closure be necessary.

Enhanced Measures

First, a reminder that a properly fitted mask is one important layer of protection against Covid. As a staff, we will be placing significant emphasis on the correct wearing of masks. Prior to the break, a number of students had developed poor mask habits, and we will be making a collective effort to address this next week. Students can expect follow up from staff, including the potential for meetings with administration after school, when found not wearing their masks properly.

Please see this link for information on ensuring proper mask practices:

<https://www.surreyschools.ca/NewsEvents/Posts/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?List=8892515d%2D22b3%2D4949%2D897d%2D7d28ecc3d0a4&ID=1239&Web=d3542597%2Dd64d%2D4e6a%2D82fa%2D4b89e35b1354>

Second, please make sure you have downloaded the k-12 Daily Health Check app and that your child completes this each morning before school.

<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>

Next, to help us manage traffic flow in the morning, all students will report to an assigned door entrance to enter the building. These door assignments are included in this message as an additional attachment. The building will not be open for students until 8:25 am when TA's pick students up at their assigned entrance. Students will be required to leave the building immediately after last dismissal, unless working directly with a teacher or participating in a club/team. Students who don't arrive to be let in at 8:25 will line up at the front door and will be

let in by a staff member. We will check the front entrance regularly. Students are NOT to call the office to be let in.

Spacing

As required, staff have adjusted classroom/work area spacing, where possible, to increase distance between desks and to reduce, where possible, instances of face-to-face contact amongst students. In addition, our main staircase has returned to one-way only (down). All other staircases remain one way, marked with directional arrows.

Eating/Lunch

To limit the amount of 'mask down' time in our school, for the time being students will only be able to eat during our lunch period. To reduce hallway congestion at lunch, students will have two options at lunch time: 1) eat in their 3rd period workspace 2) leave the building and eat outside. Our cafeteria will operate as it did last year, with food purchases to be made in the morning before school starts. To make pre-purchases, students will enter the rotunda at the back of the school between 8 and 8:20, place their order, and then leave the rotunda using an exterior door to go to the appropriate TA entrance. Cafeteria food must be purchased in the morning and cannot be purchased at lunch time. Food deliveries (i.e., Skip the Dishes) should only arrive during our lunch period. Students should pack out any recycling/waste with them. Students are encouraged to leave the building for lunch whenever possible. Students who have left the building for lunch will re-enter the school at the end of lunch hour using the follow doors:

- Grade 12: exterior gym door
- Grade 11: Front doors
- Grade 10: Socials Wing
- Grade 9: Math/Science Door
- Grade 8: Rotunda

Lockers

We ask that students only access lockers only if absolutely necessary. Lockers invite gathering and involuntary contact, and for the time being we ask students to keep their belongings with them to reduce crowding in the halls.

Visitors/Spectators

As per health guidelines at this time, only essential visitors are permitted in the building i.e., university teacher candidates, food security program volunteers. Additionally, at this time spectators are not permitted at school events i.e., band concerts, sporting events, theatre performances. All meetings are virtual for the time being.

Student Absences

We do expect to see increased students absences over the coming month. To help our office staff manage the increase in absences, we ask that you please log your child's absence in the parent portal rather than leaving a voice mail. If your child is going to be away, please make sure to log the absence so we have accurate information. Our office staff appreciates your consideration.

We look forward to welcoming back our students next week. A final reminder to please ensure your student only comes to school only if the daily health check has been passed. As well, please ensure your student brings two properly fitting masks to school each day.

Thank you!

Grant