



Khowhemun Elementary School

2918 Cliffs Road
Duncan, BC V9L 1C5
Phone: 250-746-7845
Fax: 250-746-7849

August 30, 2021

'Uy' skweyul Families and Students,

We are a week away from the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year. We hope you have enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer. We are excited to welcome everyone back and to slowly return to some of the regular activities and practices of school. We are approaching the year ahead with continued optimism and flexibility, and assure families that we continue to work diligently to create a healthy, safe, and welcoming learning environment for everyone. To help prepare you for school, please find below some important information about the first week of school and the health and safety practices we will follow this year.

Tuesday, September 7, 2021:

- School is in session from **8:25 am – 2:10 pm**.
- The breakfast and lunch program will be available for students who would like to participate.
- As in years past, students will spend the majority of the first week with their last year's teacher while enrolment is reviewed and classes are organized.
- Kindergarten students have received information by e-mail and post mail about the Kindergarten Gradual Entry Plan for our school. For further information, please contact the office.
- Returning students will line up before school at 8:25 am with their last year's teacher in the same line-up location they did during the 2020/2021 school year.
- New students will meet in the library for a brief orientation to the school, and shortly thereafter will be placed with an age-appropriate class for the week.
- Every child will receive a new Khowhemun t-shirt! 😊

Wednesday – Friday, September 8th-10th:

- School is in session from **8:25 am – 2:10 pm**.
- The breakfast and lunch program will be available for students who would like to participate. If you wish for your child to participate for the remainder of the year, please complete the permission form that will be sent home during the week.
- Please consider sending inside shoes with your child to wear in the classroom and gymnasium.
- Students will continue to spend time with their last year's or assigned teacher and participate in various activities planned to build school culture and community.
- Students will be move to their 2021/2022 classrooms towards the end of the week unless otherwise communicated.

Health and Safety Practices:

- To begin the school year, all staff and students in Grades 4-7 will be required to wear a mask when indoors at school and when riding school buses. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear a mask, but are not required to do so. All personal choices will be respected.

- All staff, students, and visitors must complete a health check every day before coming to school and entering the building. Anyone showing signs of illness must stay home and consult their health practitioner.
- If a staff member or student shows signs of illness while at school, they will be assisted with making arrangements to go home as soon as possible.
- Everyone will wash their hands multiple times a day, and also practice respiratory etiquette.
- At all times, staff and students will be expected to be considerate and respect the personal space of others.
- Visitors to the building must wear a mask, conduct a health assessment, and sign-in upon arrival. All visitors must enter through the front doors and check-in at the office.
- Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected every day and as required.
- Updates and changes to health and safety practices, including regional changes, will be communicated promptly and as required.
- Please note: For the time being, there will not be learning cohorts or zones for outside play this year. We will also be returning to one lunch hour.

Other details:

- Construction: There are many projects underway at Khowhemun. Please be careful on our school grounds and take note of areas that are out of bounds and areas that are under construction. Thank you in advance for your patience while summer/fall projects are completed.
- School Supplies: Khowhemun Elementary will be selling school supply kits for \$20.00.
- Office Hours: The office is now open for registration and queries. The office hours are 7:45 am – 3:00 pm.
- Communication: Electronic newsletters will be sent out the first Friday of the month and weekly updates will be shared by e-mail each week. Khowhemun Elementary School has a Facebook page. "Like" our page to stay connected and learning more about the happenings at school <https://www.facebook.com/KhowhemunElementarySchool/>.
- Contact Information: If your contact information has changed over the summer, please let the office know so we can update our records and ensure you are receiving all e-mails and communications.
- Drop-Off/Pick-Up: Please pick up and drop off your child as close to 8:25 am and 2:10 pm as possible. Please also be mindful of personal space and minimize gathering and congestion.
- If your child will not be attending Khowhemun this September, please email the office at khowhemun@sd79.bc.ca to let us know.

The countdown for back to school has begun! We look forward to seeing everyone on September 7th.

Enjoy the rest of your holiday.

Sincerely,

Jen Calverley
Principal

Craig McLeod
Vice Principal