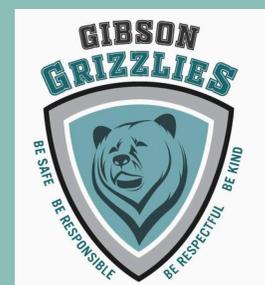


# Gibson Elementary

1451 90 Ave, Delta, BC V4C 3H3  
School website: <http://gb.deltasd.bc.ca>  
Phone: (604) 594-7588  
Absentee Phone: (604) 572-5968

Principal: Ms. Potter  
Vice Principal: Ms. Homeniuk  
Admin Assistants: Ms. Shields  
Ms. Dusanj



## NEWSLETTER

September, 2020

### Principal's Message



Welcome back Gibson families! We are very excited to see our students back at school and begin another year of learning with us! We know that this year is starting out quite different than before, but with patience, understanding and kindness, we will get through this together.

As we begin to navigate this next stage, it is important that families work together with us to support the children in following the Health and Safety Procedures set out by the Province, the Delta School District, and the school. Our priority is safety, and we can achieve this through consistency and commitment. Please read this newsletter thoroughly, as it will outline some very important information/changes at the school.

### September Schedule

The orientation session schedule for returning students for Thursday and Friday, September 10 and 11:

9:15 – 10:30	Students in Group 1 (Last names A-D)
10:45 - 12:00	Students in Group 2 (Last names E-M)
1:00 – 2:15	Students in Group 3 (Last names N-Z)

Students will be learning the new routines/expectations with their classroom teachers for these two sessions. Please do not send your child with any school supplies for these 2 days.

September 14 and onwards: Regular days - 9am-3pm (Kindergarten follow gradual entry)

### Daily Health Checks

Parents/guardians will be **REQUIRED** to assess your child(ren) **DAILY** for any signs or symptoms of a cold, influenza or Covid-19 prior to their arrival at school. If any signs or symptoms are present, they **MUST stay home** and report their absence by calling the absentee line. It is encouraged that families visit their doctor or speak with 8-1-1 regarding the symptoms for further guidance. Students are welcome to come back to school once the symptoms are gone.

It is imperative that all families have an updated emergency contact available or a plan for pick-up, in case your child does become ill or show signs of illness at school. We are required to isolate children and send them home **immediately**, and disinfect their learning areas.

All staff will also be following the same procedures, but please note that we will not be notifying parents if a staff member is ill, unless advised by Public Health Officials.

## **Attendance**

Please try and arrive on time for the start and end of each day, as we need to limit the amount of people who are on school property. If your child will be late, please note that parents are NOT allowed in the building at this point, and therefore students will need to enter through the office, use hand sanitizer and walk to their classroom.

## **Preparing For Each Day**

- Please make sure that your child washes his/her hands before school, and when they return from school
- Your child will be asked to use their own items and to not share with others. School supplies should be labelled. Please pack water bottles, as all water fountains will be disabled, however, students will be able to refill their bottles at water refill stations
- Please dress for the weather, as we will be encouraged to spend more time outdoors. Please apply sunscreen before they arrive at school, or send sunscreen they can apply themselves (teachers will not be permitted to apply sunscreen to your child), and a hat for sunny days
- Parents, if you are accompanying your children to school, please ensure you are practicing physical distancing by being 2 metres apart from one another**

## **Learning Groups/Cohorts**

Students will come to school and spend the school day with their learning group. Their learning group will only consist of the students in their class, as well as their teacher(s). Students are allowed to sit next to each other and work cooperatively. However, we will be teaching students to keep their hands to themselves and distance as much as possible. As long as your child with people in his/her learning group, they will not require 2 metre distance from each other. Students will not be allowed to share food, personal items, or school supplies.

## **Recess/lunch Time**

Students will be assigned to an area on the school grounds for play during recess and lunch, but they will be required to stay 2 metres away from anyone who is not in their learning group. These play areas will rotate weekly.

- There will be NO physical contact sports

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Under the current Occupational Health and Safety Plan, masks are not mandated for students in elementary school. However, children are welcome to wear one if they choose
- Staff are not required to wear masks/face shields when working with their learning group, but it is a personal preference
- Any adult in the building who needs to come in contact with more than one classroom (Administrators, Learning Support Teachers, Teacher Librarian, Music, etc) will be required to keep their distance and wear a mask
- The adults are required to wear a mask in any public area of the school
- The First Aid attendants will be wearing masks, face shields and possibly gloves when supporting students in need

## **Classroom Set Up**

- Students will be sitting in either desks or tables
- Many items in the classroom will be put away
- There will be limited access to shared manipulatives and tools

### **Hand Washing**

There will be MANY hand washing times throughout the day. If you wish to send your child with hand sanitizer, please make sure it's labelled and in your child's back pack for personal use.

### **Washroom Use**

- We will limit washroom use to one person at a time
- Washrooms will be cleaned/wiped more often

### **Hallway Traffic**

There will be directional flow markers for students and staff to follow in the main hallways so that physical distancing can be practiced and observed.

### **Snacks and Lunches**

Students need to bring their snacks and lunches for each day. There will be **NO lunch drop offs** at the school during the day. Birthday treats are not accepted at this time, unfortunately.

### **Hot Lunch & BC Fruits and Veggie Program**

Our Hot Lunch program as well as the BC Fruits and Veggie delivery programs are on hold until further notice.

### **Visitors in the School**

Parents and visitors are not permitted inside the school building. If you require assistance, please call the office.

### **Final Note**

We know that the decision to either come back to school full-time, or pursue other learning options for your family was not an easy choice to make. September is normally buzzing with excitement for families, especially the children. Although this September comes with some uncertainties, please know that our commitment and dedication to your child's learning is unwavering. This pandemic won't last forever, but our children's love of learning, making connections and having new experiences will. We look forward to a year of learning together.