



BC CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

ROMANS 12:1-2

August 26, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome Back to School, everyone, for the 28th year in a row at BCCA! We thank God for each one of you and for entrusting your treasured children to our care. It is an honour and a privilege to serve this community as we strive toward our goal of *“Equipping students to impact the world for Jesus Christ.”*

While we have all come through possibly the most unusual spring and summer of our lives, there is indeed a silver lining to every cloud. Not only has God faithfully guarded our Kids’ Club program all spring and summer, He has lavishly provided 9.4 acres of our very own on which to build our new school! We have expanded by not one new class but TWO this year - Grade 3 has doubled as expected, but we’ve opened a third section of Kindergarten as well, to handle the increased demand. Further, due to a three-month immersion experience with Virtual Learning, our teachers and students have grown exceptionally skilled in their tech abilities, and because of new COVID protocols the school has never been more sparkling clean.

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

Speaking of which, I am pleased to report that our Return to School plan has been approved by Work Safe BC and our facility has passed their safety inspection. Our commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment goes even beyond the directives of the Ministry of Education [Ministry K-12 Reopening Guide](#) to keep our students and staff safe while they move ahead with the business of learning.

So how will this new year look and feel specifically at Fernwood Campus? Here are the key differences you will notice:

1. **Daily Health Checks** – All staff and students will be required to complete a health check each morning before coming to school. Those who have a temperature or other signs of illness may not come to school. Our most careful plans and cleaning practices to keep the school safe depend fully on the cooperation and care of each one who enters our facility.
2. **Cohorts** - Learning will be in person for the time being. *(*Awaiting further confirmation from the Ministry of Education)*. Learning groups of less than 60 students and teachers have been designed to create small, easily traced bubbles for each child and adult. There are 6 cohorts for K-7 which will operate independently of the others throughout the day:
 - a. Kindergarten Sections K-L, K-B and K-M
 - b. Grade 1-B and 1-C
 - c. Grade 2-S/M and 2-G
 - d. Grade 3-A and 3-F
 - e. Grades 4 and 6
 - f. Grades 5 and 7
3. **Masks** - *Masks are mandatory in all common areas like halls, Library and washrooms, or when a staff member or student needs to cross cohorts.* While masking up is not required in our cohorts, we wholeheartedly support the use of them. All students will be issued two official cloth masks and shown how to properly wear, remove and store them. Additional masks from home may be supplied for more frequent replacements, as needed.
4. **Building Access** - Parents/guardians and guests will not be able to enter the school building unless they have an appointment. Everyone who enters will need to sign in and out to allow for contact tracing. All students will assemble in cohorts in their designated stations around the school building each morning and *enter by the exterior classroom doors.* End of the day exits will also be through exterior doors.
5. **Food** – Snacks and lunches must be eaten in the classroom to minimize the possibility of germ transmission while using playground and sports equipment at break times. Microwave use has temporarily been suspended so use of thermos containers is encouraged. Students will be required to return all uneaten parts of their lunches including apple cores and drink containers, to their lunch kits and empty them at home each day.
6. **Enhanced Cleaning** – BCCA has hired a dedicated daytime custodian to clean all washrooms, common areas, door handles, light switches and other high-touch areas at least twice per day, in addition to our regular evening all-school cleaning. This is in addition to the extra classroom cleaning that will become a routine for all students in their classes.



BC CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

ROMANS 12:1-2

7. **Drop-off and Pick-up** – No early drop off is allowed. Children may arrive after 8:15am for our 8:30 start. Those who need Out of School Care must register with the Kids' Club or arrange private before-school care. Line ups will be spaced around the building in designated Cohorts. Dismissal for K-2 requires a parent or older sibling to collect the child and Grades 3-7 students will assemble on the front lawn in designated cohort zones. Families that have children in multiple cohorts may assemble and wait in their family groupings. Prompt pick-up will be between 3-3:20pm (M-Th) and 12:35-12:55pm on Fridays. No staggered starts or ends are necessary with the spacing and separate entrances we offer.
8. **Personal Hygiene** – The school has doubled the number of hand-sanitizing stations throughout our halls and classrooms. Each classroom is outfitted with a sink. Extra training, care and attention will be taken to remind children of how to wash/sanitize their hands regularly and use proper cough/sneeze etiquette. All reusable masks must be taken home each day and laundered before being used again.
9. **Playground Safety** – Recesses and lunch breaks include 3 staggered times: Kindergarten; Grades 1-3; Grades 4-7. Watch for the specific times to be identified on your teacher's class timetable. Cohorts (Grade 1-7) will be able to rotate safely through three play zones each week. Kinders will always be in the fully enclosed playground at recess breaks.
10. **School Ventilation** – Our campus has a mechanical ventilation system that will run continuously to allow for proper ventilation in classrooms and hallways.
11. **Bussing** – Bus riders will wash hands prior to boarding and after exiting the bus. They will mask up and sit one to a seat, with an empty seat between them and the next passenger. Families may sit together. The driver will follow all bus company safety protocols.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

While we anticipate being able to offer many of our popular extra-curricular activities, these may be modified or limited to certain cohorts until such time as we can open other options. We will make our Athletic and Fine Arts options available to you as we complete our plans.

UNIFORMS - Boys

In order to support a *uniform look* for the boys, Administration and the Parent Communication Team announced in 2019 that the NEAT uniform black dress pants would be our new official black uniform dress pants for 2020. With the year-long notice and regular reminders, we trust you have been able to purchase the new pants for your son. As always, there will be a grace period for uniform-compliance until September 30th.

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

September 8th will be a half day, as always, so we will look forward to seeing all our sharply dressed students ready to start at 8:30am. Class lists will be emailed September 4th to all parents whose children are in grades with multiple sections (K-3) so that everyone knows where to line up. Signs and friendly traffic directors will be helping everyone find their places, but here are the general instructions:

Morning Line-Ups

Kindergarten and Grade 1 – Front of the building, K's to the left, 1's by the front entrance

Grades 2, 4, 6 – Back of the building

Grade 3 Classes – West side of building. West Drive will be closed to traffic every morning for 20 minutes as children assemble before school.

Grades 5 and 7 - Back gym entrance

After classes dismiss at 11:10am (Kindergarten) and 11:20am (Grades 1-7) all students will be able to join their cohorts at the appropriate ice-cream stand and choose a cool treat before heading home to share all their first day news. Families are welcome to visit with each other, from a safe distance, and are responsible to keep together during the ice-cream social.



BC CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

ROMANS 12:1-2

The second day of school will be a full day for all but Kindergarten, which has a gradual entry. *Kindergarten parents will receive information from their teacher at the Kindergarten interviews next week. Watch for an email from your child's teacher.*

MORE INFORMATION

Our **Parent Information Night** has been moved up a week to **September 9th** and will be offered virtually at 7:00pm, in an effort to get more information out, earlier. Zoom link details will be sent via email to parents and guardians closer to the date.

On **September 10th**, new families are invited to attend a session on **"C Our Story" at 6:30pm** at our Fernwood Campus followed by **Parent 101 Night** at 7:30pm. Parents can take this opportunity to ask about BC Christian Academy and to get a better understanding of the school's Vision and Mission.

Planning for this unusual year has been hampered by shifting information and the sheer volume of changes to regular programming. Every new procedure has a domino effect. A late deadline to have our plans returned and approved by the Ministry has added to the delay but thank you for your patience and prayers. We SO look forward to seeing you on September 8th!

May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in You. (Psalm 33:22)

Beth Peters
Elementary Principal