



# BC CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

ROMANS 12:1-2

August 26, 2020

Hello Students, Parents, and Guardians:

We are just two weeks away from beginning another year of school. I hope you have had a chance to enjoy the summer, rest, and are ready for September. The leadership team and staff at BCCA have been working hard to prepare for another upcoming year. There are so many people trying to change so many things in today's global climate, with an instability that is almost palpable. We neither have to, nor should we, allow ourselves to be forced into choosing between bad choices. Like I have stated before, we need to trust in the wisdom of Paul through Colossians 2:17. Here the Apostle warns us of how the world and worldly people will try to cheat us, "but the substance is Christ"; essentially Jesus is that which is real. He demonstrated His authority through His resurrection and therefore establishes His supremacy over all other power, principalities, and worldviews that would otherwise cheat us of our godly rewards.

One of the reasons why many Christian parents choose to send their children to Christian schools because they understand their God-given mandate to raise righteous children who have a biblical Christian worldview. One of the best allies to this calling is Christian schools with their Christian teachers. As brothers and sisters in faith, we are also responding to a spiritual call to train and disciple the next generation of Christ-followers, or at the very least to help provide the best opportunity for young people to choose Jesus for who He says He is.

Thank you again for trusting us with the responsibility to be a part of your children's education. We have made some policy and practice changes this year which I will highlight. There is the uniform change that was first published at the beginning of 2019. We are also making changes to better be in line with new orders from the Ministers of Health and Education, as well as to help shield us in such events as an increase of provincial reopening stages to be greater than two.

## **Uniform**

Male students are expected to be in uniform pants and shoes that can be purchased through the uniform stores. If you have not made your updates yet, you still have time before the school year officially begins. In the past, male students could wear black dress pants and black dress shoes of their choice, but this leniency has been abused more with every passing year so it is our hope that this will help students be consistent with school standards again.

## **Learning Groups/Cohorts and Course Scheduling:**

Learning will be in person for the time being. *(\*Awaiting further confirmation from the Ministry of Education)*

Learning Groups or Cohorts are groupings of students that will engage in daily learning together, with size limits. Our high school is diving into 2 main groups: the grade 8, 9, and 10 will be one learning group and the grade 11 and 12 will be another group. These groups will have separate break times. Lunch will be at the same time in the school, but geographically distant. Please refer to the [Ministry K-12 Reopening Guide](#) for more information on Learning Groups.

As well as learning groups, we are implementing block scheduling, which means that students will only be doing 2 classes a day, and we have divided our year into 4 terms, rather than 2 semesters. Here are a couple of studies which help you understand the advantages of block styled education: [10 Year Longitudinal Study, Georgia Educational Researcher](#) or [Advantages of Block Scheduling, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards](#).

## **Health and Safety**

**Cleaning and Disinfecting:** cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms will happen in between courses, at lunch, and after school each day. Washrooms will also be cleaned periodically throughout the day.

**Physical Distancing:** will occur through observance of our learning groups. We are also dividing up our building by having learning groups stay in their own zones of the school with separate entrances and exits at the end of the day. As a smaller high school, our entire student body is almost within the limits of a single secondary learning group, so our current groupings are well within the limits. Teachers and other staff will also be maintaining a greater distance from students as well.

**Hand Hygiene:** staff and students should be keeping their hands to themselves as much as possible. Students and staff are being encouraged to wash their hands as often as is reasonable. We will be reviewing how to properly wash our hands periodically in school.

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PPE: masks are required to be worn anywhere where there is higher contact or where learning groups may passively interact. Masks are not required when students are with their learning groups in class, but are still encouraged.

Taking home everything daily (including PPE\*): All items that are brought to school must be taken home with students daily. The school will not be issuing lockers until we are provincially back to Stage 1 for Covid19. This means items including reusable or disposable masks, lunch containers, bottles, granola bar wrappers, books, shoes, computers, etc... must be taken home each night. There is to be NOTHING left at school in the evenings and overnight.

Symptom Assessment and Illness Checks: parents and guardians must be monitoring the health of their children daily before students are allowed to leave home for school. The school will be asking students to do a health inventory periodically to ensure awareness of symptoms and that students are not coming to school sick. If a student is negative for any survey point, or showing positive symptoms for Covid19, then they are required to stay at home. If testing is recommended by your family doctor, the school would like evidence of a negative result before re-admitting students. If students begin to exhibit symptoms during the day, they will be sent home immediately and may be asked to get a doctor's permission to return to school.

School Ventilation: both campuses have mechanical ventilation systems that are going to be run continuously to help maintain proper air exchange in the classrooms.

School Provided Student Bussing: students will need to sanitize their hands before entering the bus. Students will be required to wear masks because of the crossover of learning groups.

## **First Day Back**

As usual, day 1 will be a half day with students arriving at around 8:15 and being dismissed from school at 11 to get some ice-cream and to spend time together with their peers (from their learning groups). Parents are welcome to come and get their children at around 11:15 am. Parents are also welcome to come get some ice cream, but to stay at a distance with masks on if possible. We will bring the ice cream to you! There will be 2 ice cream stations: Main doors station will be for the students and parents of the grade 11 and 12 students, the front-side doors will be for the parents and students of grade 8, 9, and 10. The rest of the week will be as normal. Please keep in mind that Thursday September 10, 2020 will be our first photo day so students should have their formal sweaters.

Thank you very much for your time and help in keeping our school community as healthy and safe as possible. Please continue to pray for our school community as we begin our work anew.

Blessings

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