

A. QUESTIONS Survey - as of September 16/2020

1. ONLINE Learning:

What online resource packages/ subscriptions will the district be buying and make available to students? Why is it impossible to find information about resources on the district website? (E.g [https://www.sd43.bc.ca/Resources/StudentResources/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.sd43.bc.ca/Resources/StudentResources/Pages/default.aspx#/=))

We have links to a variety of packages and subscriptions on our website: <https://newwestschools.ca/programs-services/district-libraries/overview/>

This includes things that we subscribe to through Focused Ed (ERAC) and Tumblebooks, Discovery Ed and Idello.

We will also be exploring the use of additional resources to support our K-8 Online Program, in addition to the District resources on our website that are available to all SD #40 students. Any new online resources we use will be FOIPPA compliant and we will provide the appropriate information and permission forms for student use as required.

The screenshot shows the New Westminister Schools website. The header includes the school logo, navigation menu (About Us, Our Schools, Programs & Services, Our Board, Contact Us), and a search bar. The main content area is titled "Programs & Services – District Library Resources – Overview". A sidebar on the left lists navigation options: Overview, School Catalogs, ERAC Databases, Tumblebooks, Discovery Education, and Idello. The main text welcomes visitors to the District Libraries Resources Pages, explaining that each school has a library staffed by a teacher-librarian. It describes these spaces as Learning Commons, where students work, collaborate, and share. A list of resources is provided: School Catalogs and ERAC Databases. An image of children with books is also visible.

https://newwestschools.ca/programs-services/district-libraries/overview/

New Westminister Schools
Where students love to learn!

About Us Our Schools Programs & Services Our Board Contact Us

Programs & Services – District Library Resources – Overview

Overview

- › School Catalogs
- › ERAC Databases
- › Tumblebooks
- › Discovery Education
- › Idello

Welcome to our District Libraries Resources Pages

Each school in the New Westminister Schools district has a library staffed by a teacher-librarian. These spaces have long been home to books that extend students' knowledge of the curriculum or promote their love of reading. You may hear your school library referred to as a Learning Commons. This term reflects the shift in libraries towards becoming places where students work, collaborate, build and share as well as the home of carefully curated digital and text information.

To navigate the Library section of this website, click on the pages to the left to access the following:

- **School Catalogs** will take you to a page with links to each school's search catalog. A library catalog allows students and parents to search for materials (books, kits, digital items) available in the school library.
- **ERAC Databases** are groups of online digital resources for students to use. An example of a database is World Book's National Geographic Kids. These databases can help students with homework assignments.

How can we change from in class to online?

I think more support for the online learning should be increase.

newly created on-line learning program, class capacity and how many students will be accepted into this program.

Why can't we do everything online?

Implement mix of on-line and in-class instruction without fear of losing school spot - parents were forced to choose in- class instruction. It can still be done!

In case COVID situation gets better in few months, there should be an opportunity for everyone to attend in school education

Can remote learning be an option.

Why the deadline of applying for newly created online learning program is August 31, 2020? Parents may need more time to consider this brand new program.

What measures are in place to integrate students who selected online learning into regular classroom environment as soon as we get over with pandemic or when an effective vaccine is in place.

Why did the district not consider a hybrid mode, especially for the first few months of back to school? Social distancing and other safety measures are harder to execute in younger kids and some flexibility was expected in delivery of the school sessions

Why the deadline of applying for newly created online learning program is August 31, 2020? Parents may need more time to consider this brand new program.

What happens if my child has too many fears about Covid and doesn't feel safe learning in class. What are the options?

If they have looked into online instructors while the kids stays at home, What will it take for SD40 to reconsider students learning all online?

Why New Westminster school district, unlike some other school districts such as Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey, did not provide the option for transition, which is very unfair to the parents and children. Parents in those districts can choose to send their child back to their home school if they are ready, those schools districts offered them a temporary short term to transition back to in class instructions. Burnaby School district give the parents until Dec 18th 2020, and Surrey is Jan 2021, while Vancouver

offers 3 dates Oct 13th, Nov 9th, or Jan 5th 2021 for students to return to in class learning at their home school.

How do we get more remote learning options for French Immersion students?

Is there a possibility of offering an online instruction for students in the French Immersion programs?

At this time, we have concluded our online registration process as we wanted to accommodate as many parents as possible within a fairly short turnaround to ensure minimal disruption to their educational program. We are pleased to announce that we have been able to accommodate all parents who have requested an online program (over 470) for our K-8 and the 40 applications for our Home Learners Program. For our 9-12 online program, we have supported an additional 88 full-time students and 118 for part-time online courses.

We will be sending our families who have registered their child into our K-8 online program further information on our process should they wish to return back to their home school at a later date. Part of that process will look at set re-entry points where we will work to accommodate those requests to the best of our ability.

As a small district we have worked hard to do some really big things. Unlike what some other districts are offering, the brand new online program will support diverse learners with EAs and make sure students still have access to counsellors. But we don't have the capacity (either the staff or the funding) to offer the online program in additional streams to partner with our programs of choice. That said, we want to support our FI families who may have chosen to have their child engage in the English online program and will outline supports for families to keep their children engaged in French language acquisition in order to re-enter the program in the following school year.

We have been able to accommodate ALL parent requests for online learning or our Home Learners Program at Hume Park. In doing so, we have begun the restructuring and staffing process to make this transition possible. Part of this process will include keeping as many spots available for families who wish to return to their home school at different times of the school year. The transition options being offered by other districts seem to offer some check-in supports by an online teacher, however, the parent(s) is primarily responsible for delivering instructional support. Given the feedback we received from parents in June, we are proud that we have invested in a fully supported and inclusive online program providing specialized staffing supports such as educational assistants. In other words, our transition option is providing a solid online program and doing our best to support families who want to return to their home school when they feel comfortable to do so. Finally, any family engaged in our online program will retain their spot in their home school for the 2021-22 school year.

Has the idea of cameras/video equipment in classrooms for teachers to teach in-class and online at the same time been explored? Is this feasible? Can fundraising support the cost? Can you ask individual schools to fundraise for needed items?

At this time, we have not explored this option as it poses student privacy concerns, nor will the district be asking parents to fundraise to install cameras and video equipment in classrooms.

From a young student doing online learning: If I'm doing online school, will I be behind in the work compared to my friends in school? How will online learning differ from the online learning last year after March?

Last Spring, we were in a new and different situation called “Emergency Remote” Learning. Our teachers and students were working hard to learn online skills and complete the essential skills of the curriculum in the last three months of the year. This year we are creating a complete Online program that includes a balance of synchronous instruction and self-directed learning in all curriculum areas. This year, you can expect more live lessons, more teacher connections and more project-based learning.

Is it possible to do in-class and online learning at the same time to keep the bubble small?

We do not have a hybrid option. For our students engaged in face-to-face instruction, we have implemented all health and safety protocols as per the Ministry of Health and BC Centre for Disease Control. Our entire COVID-19 district safety plan can be found on our website at

**What will it take for SD40 to reconsider students learning all online?
The school district follows the direction from the Ministry of Education. The move to Stage 2 of our restart plan is to maximize full time instruction.**

When the online school will be actively start? Even though we got a mail that we will get some info to get access to MyEducation Microsoft office and team and a set of learning activities by last Friday, unfortunately we didn't receive anything yet.

Our online classes kicked off this week with a parent and student virtual orientation officially begin on Monday, September 21st. A move to full online will be dependent on moving to a different stage which is determined at the provincial level.

| STAGE 1 IN-CLASS | STAGE 2 IN-CLASS | STAGE 3 HYBRID | STAGE 4 HYBRID | STAGE 5 REMOTE |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p>COHORT SIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: <i>No limit</i> Middle: <i>No limit</i> Secondary: <i>No limit</i> <p>DENSITY TARGETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable <p>In-Class Instruction Full-time all students, all grades</p> | <p>COHORT SIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 60 Middle: 60 Secondary: 120 <p>DENSITY TARGETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable <p>In-Class Instruction Full-time instruction for all students for the maximum instructional time possible within cohort limits.</p> <p>Self-directed learning supplements in-class instruction, if required</p> | <p>COHORT SIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 30 Middle: 30 Secondary: 60 <p>DENSITY TARGETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% for all schools <p>In-Class Instruction Full-time instruction for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children of essential service workers Students with disabilities/diverse abilities Students who require additional supports <p>In-class instruction for all other students for the maximum time possible within cohort limits and density targets.</p> <p>Self-directed and remote learning supplements in-class instruction.</p> | <p>COHORT SIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 30 Middle: 30 Secondary: 30 <p>DENSITY TARGETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25% for all schools <p>In-Class Instruction Full-time instruction for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children of essential service workers Students with disabilities/diverse abilities students who require additional supports <p>In-class instruction for all other students for the maximum time possible within cohort limits and density targets.</p> <p>Self-directed and remote learning supplements in-class instruction.</p> | <p>COHORT SIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 0 Middle: 0 Secondary: 0 <p>DENSITY TARGETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% for all schools <p>In-Class Instruction Suspend in-class instruction for all students.</p> <p>Self-directed and remote learning in place of in-class instruction.</p> |

2. SAFETY in our SCHOOLS:

Can you guys do a Temperature check and symptoms Check every morning and before or after Lunch. (we do this in hospitals and long term facilities)

Bubble questionnaires? Asking the students & Teachers if they or anyone in their household hanged out with other people (without PPE or safe distancing over the weekend or prior to coming to school)

How can students be in a cohort inside but be allowed to mix in large numbers all over the rest of the school grounds (I understand inside vs. outside, but there are too many students present at once)

Assessment of symptoms such as temperature checks will be only performed by health care professionals. Our current assessment protocol includes parents completing a daily health check every morning prior to their child attending school. The BC Centre of Disease Control has recently updated the daily health check and would recommend parents printing a copy for their household. Click here for the revised checklist and go to Appendix C:

<https://newwestschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/COVID19-HS-PLAN-version-1.6-Sept-14-2020-003-1.pdf>

My kids are in a portable with a "wash cart" sink system that they have a step pump. What is this wash cart? Is this actual running water or does

someone have to replace the water? Where does the waste water go to? How often does this get cleaned?

Shouldn't hand sanitizers be supplied in each class. Hand washing stations in each class would be even better. Will each class get one?

As a school district, we purchased portable hand-washing stations (pump-operated) for all portables in our school district. Beyond the provision of hand sanitizer, washing hands frequently is an important personal measure for students and staff to protect themselves and others. Our facilities team checks and fills water levels on a daily basis. All sinks are considered high touch surfaced and are cleaned and disinfected at least twice daily. The water is drained to an exterior reservoir and is emptied on a daily basis. Further, we had some concerns with water pooling in nearby areas and that issue has now been resolved as tanks were being filled up with too much water.

They have to hire more Custodians to keep the school clean and safe.

As a school district, we hired an additional five full-time custodians which represented a 20% increase in our custodial staff.

Please encourage all teachers/staff and all students to wear a mask. Make it clear when kids should not attend school, e.g., parents are still asking if their child can attend if they just have a runny nose. Please make rules about when to stay home very clear

How will we teach our children not to be scared of touching another person? (Looking to the future of the potential mental health health affects of "keeping your distance" from everyone)

Face masks are mandatory in a number of situations. All adults entering a school must wear a mask upon entry and while travelling through busy or common spaces. Middle and secondary students must wear masks when travelling through busy or shared common spaces, or when interacting with those outside their cohort. All staff who work across multiple learning groups must wear masks and maintain physical distance. Reusable masks (2 per person) will be provided upon request.

Within cohorts wearing masks is a personal choice that will be supported for any kids or families who decide they'd like to do so.

Mask use in younger students is not required. The Provincial Health Officer has spoken to this at a number of briefings: speaking to science that shows this strategy, at those younger ages, can actually increase risks for elementary school students as it makes them more likely to touch their face, there are higher chances of them getting masks dirty and holding that against their face and the practical challenges around kids who are young enough that they need help putting it on. The guidance from the health authority is that other strategies – reducing physical contact, frequent hand washing, etc, - are more effective ways to reduce the risk of spread than prolonged mask wearing in school settings can be.

Gym class is fine, and the students can do basketball drills, but they should not be playing games against each other, that is way too close.

Several universities in the states have decided to arrange their desks in a 'honeycomb' pattern, which in the same space is more space efficient than the grid pattern most schools are using. Regardless it will maximize the distance between each desk. I strongly encourage the use of this pattern for all schools.

<https://odee.osu.edu/spaces/classrooms/physical-distancing-guidelines>

Please refer to the heading "Table and Chair Seating" for a diagram of how the desk arrangement looks like.

Why are schools the only place where we can have larger groups of people gathering when our provincial health experts advise against large gatherings in almost all other situations. It has put many parents and care givers in an awkward situation having to explain to their child/children why the government might think that rules and recommendations only apply when convenient.

Why is there such a push to put kids back into school when the pandemic is still out of control? Resources should be focused on remote learning rather than trying to make classrooms "safer".

It seems counter intuitive to have split classes when many children have enlarged their bubble to include some friends. To split the grades up seems like including other bubbles and groups for no reason.

The health ministry is always reminding everyone to keep the bubble small. What are your options to make it happen? And how small is that bubble? Any indications of how federal funding will be used? If not for reducing class sizes, why?

The guidelines around safe learning group sizes were driven by Dr. Bonnie Henry, as the Provincial Health Officer, her teams and those at Workplace BC. Part of what they take into consideration is the science they have around how transmission and risk rates that are different in groups of children than they are in social gatherings of adults or mixed-age company, as well as the different type of interactions that are possible in schools that have new layered measures added. And they also take into account the standards that many people who have continued on at, or returned to, workplaces in terms of what's deemed safe on the job

when it comes to considering the size of our bubbles. In collaboration with education professionals talking about how teaching, classes and schedules might impact cohorts, is how the provincial health and safety authorities landed on the guidelines we're working under.

In New Westminster we made the decision to reduce the maximum size of elementary school learning groups from 60 to a maximum of 30. Our middle schools have a maximum of 60 people, and while the Provincial limit for secondary students is 120, the average cohort size that we've created at the high school is actually landing closer to 90-100 students.

We also have to remember that Learning Groups are one part of a plan that's also layered in with many other changes that help support how we're keeping our schools safer. The BC Centre for Disease Control has recently updated (Sept. 4) their website with a helpful FAQ: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools/schools>

Within this link, you will note that they have performed a number and percentage distribution of COVID-19 cases in BC (Jan.1 – Sept.3, 2020). Within the total of 5,980 COVID cases, children <10 years represent 3% of cases and children 10-19 years represent 5% of provincial cases. In both age groups (0-19yrs), <1% have required hospitalization with no cases in ICU.

How many times a day does the tables and facilities in the school get cleaned throughout the day?

A complete overview of our cleaning and disinfection schedule can be found within our COVID-19 Safety Plan located on our website: <https://newwestschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/COVID19-HS-PLAN-version-1.6-Sept-14-2020-003-1.pdf>

Management of Illness and Confirmed Cases

How do we define the first contact, second contact and third contact with COVID-19 positive? What level contact should stay home?

As a large family is there guidance regarding how siblings effect other siblings ability to go to school if a non school age child is sick and or has any of those symptoms listed on the daily assessment tool? Thank you.

Cold season is upon us. What happens if my child gets the sniffles or a cough? Does she need to isolate for 14 days or get a covid test before being allowed to return to school?

Some Covid-19 symptoms (like a runny nose or coughing) can last several weeks, we are expected to keep our children home if they have symptoms. Some parents are not able to work remotely and have to be back at work. Or they may lose their jobs if they do not return to work. There are parents with more than one child. If one gets sick and has to stay home for 2 weeks and their other children get sick at other times, how are parents able to cope without going to work for such a long period of time? Is there a better solution instead of keeping our children home for several weeks?

Would schools consider making the flu vaccine (Flu Mist) available at school?

This is a research paper recently published by a virologist who escaped from China. From my understanding, the virus is likely to be an engineered biological weapon. Could the school board employ someone with a biology background to examine the paper and provide a response during the meeting?

Will SD40 be notifying parents if anyone has been confirmed with Covid-19?

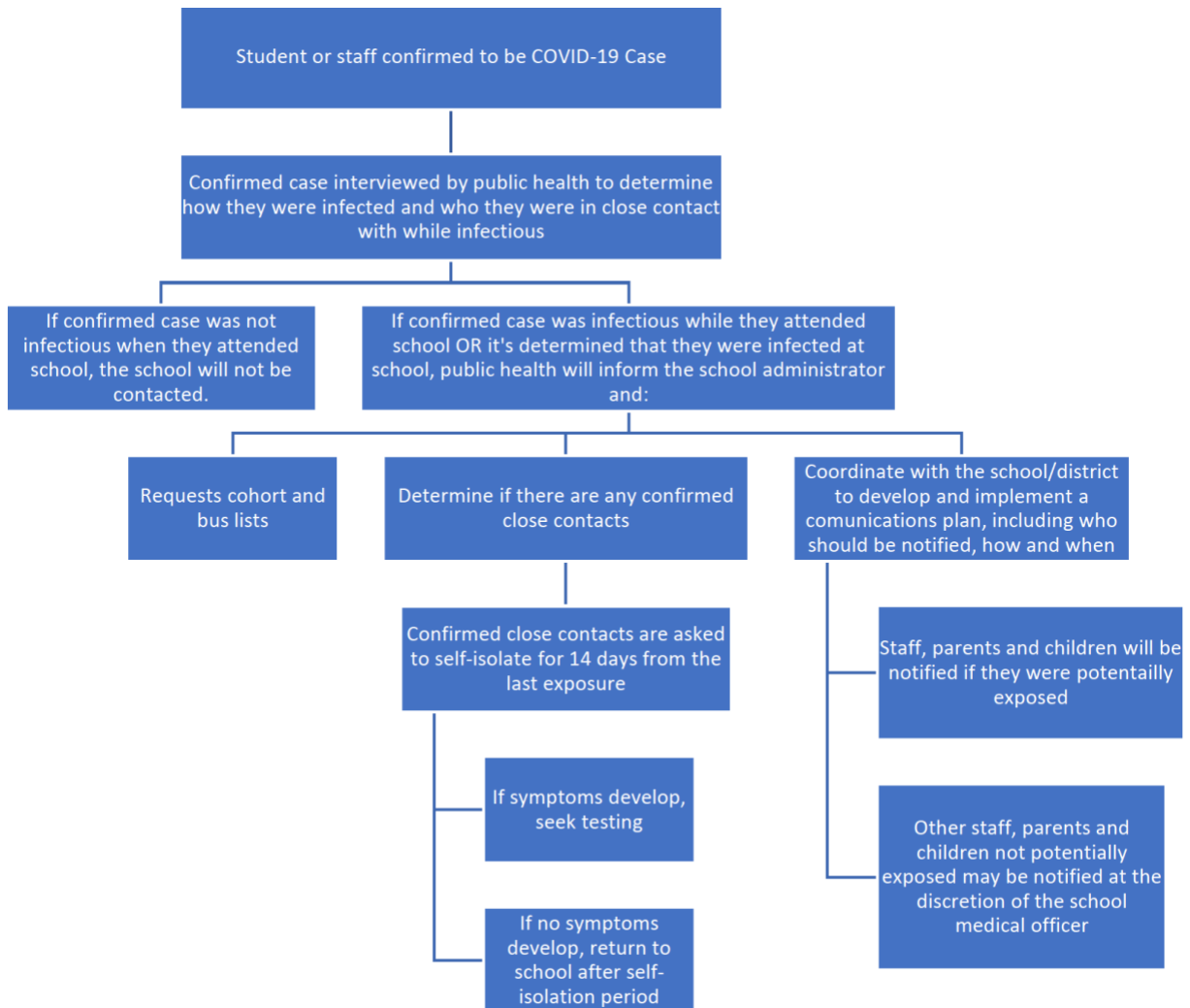
Fraser Health has now launched a COVID-19 school exposures webpage at:

<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/news/2020/Sep/fraser-health-launches-covid-19-school-exposures-webpage#.X2UXSZNKh-U>

It is important to note that Public Health makes direct contact with any individual who is a case or close contact as part of the contact tracing process. A helpful Q & A page can be found here:

<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/coronavirus/Back-to-school-resources-for-parents-and-teachers#.X2UX05NKh-W>

Additionally, the flow chart below depicts public health actions in response to a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school:



3. COMMUNICATIONS

More details needed on how what the options look like. if we chose half class half home schooling.

All emails sent by the school board/school/pac should have this format going forward.

- Summary Section/Action required section:

Lists all action items to be done in bullet fashion. This will allow parents who're inundated with emails from work, personal life and kid's school to exactly do what is needed.

- If the email is just information, please state - information only - no actions needed.

- Details (long form) section:

This could include all emails however long the sender decides to send. If anyone has the time or the need to read all, they'll read saving the rest of us from missing action items.

If the concerned authorities could do this, we'd collectively save so much time, stress and confusion among the parents.

We always appreciate ongoing feedback on ways we can continue to improve our communication to families. We will certainly take note of the above suggestions.

Social connections to ease anxiety amongst children was our main concern going into this school year (besides health and safety) and our concerns were not heard by our school principal. How can parents make reasonable requests in the future when we are always told that we cannot make requests?

This specific concern requires follow-up at the school and district level.

It's very hasty for the parents to make a big decision for the child before being given enough clear information and guidelines. While opting to online learning based on the Covid concern, school district didn't clearly emphasize the online learning was for the whole school year plus they would not hold the spot at the home school, which should have been emphasized at the beginning before listing of the four options rather than in the very end of the external website.

Who manages communications and what expertise do they have in that area?

We worked very hard to guide parents through our options and carefully define the alternatives:
<https://newwestschools.ca/home-online-learning-defining-the-alternatives-to-in-class/>

We will continue to work with our families should circumstances change over the year. Our communications manager, Kristen Keighley-Wight has an extensive educational and professional communications background and our school district is very fortunate to have her expertise during these especially challenging times.

4. TEACHERS

What are employment accommodations for teachers? What does that practically mean for students whose teacher has been given on?

The accommodation process is one where the employer, employee and union work together to try to remove barriers to meaningful work participation. Each party has rights and duties during this process. During this process accommodation arrangements should be responsive to the unique needs and abilities of an employee. Given the specific nature of an accommodation, a more specific response is not possible. Some general examples of on-site accommodations for school district employees could include a face shield or the installation of plexiglass surrounding their work environment.

My elementary school teacher appears to be funding the necessities on her own ; why hasn't the money the government provided trickled down to the teachers for supplies?

With the additional government funding, how will the district plan to use this new resource to strengthen its health and safety plan?

With the recent federal funding announcement, the school district is utilizing its funding allocation of approximately 2.5 million dollars to support our restart plan which will include but not limited to :

- Learning Resources and supports
 - o Implementation of online and remote learning options
 - o Hiring of additional staffing
 - o School Learning Resources and Supplies
 - o Health and Safety Training for staff
- Health and Safety
 - o Installation of plexiglass and other barriers
 - o Outdoor learning spaces
 - o Additional cleaning supplies
 - o PPE

5. FRENCH TEACHERS

What is the district doing to make sure that the EFI programs at schools have French teachers?

Why are there classrooms without teachers and what is the district going to do to ensure these children in French Immersion do not fall behind?

We have qualified French teachers within our EFI and LFI programs. Unfortunately, we had three French Immersion vacancies to begin the school year. We have recently filled one vacancy and should finalize the remaining two positions very shortly.

6. SPECIFIC SCHOOL Questions

For the specific questions below, we would like to remind parents to contact your child's teacher and/or principal directly for a timely response.

After school exits at different locations so pick up parties are away from others.

Indeed, our schools have implemented separate entrances and exits and would encourage parents to speak to their child's principal for further assistance.

My son is a student in Division 18 at Ecole Herbert Spencer. On the first day of school his teacher did not attend his class. On the second day of school we were informed that his teacher would probably not teach his class for the rest of the year. I am wondering how my son's class is assigned a teacher who will not be attending his class. The school principal is now interviewing teacher candidates for my son's class. Maybe he will get a french teacher to teach his class? I am wondering how we find ourselves in this situation. If someone could explain the process, I would appreciate it.

Thank you for the question and your child's principal will gladly discuss the staffing situation impacting your child.

Can we get masks specific for choir/vocal jazz groups so the students can stay engaged in what they enjoy. There are Specific singing masks, if funding can be made available.

<https://zenodo.org/record/4028830#.X2FBRKcif4B>

Again, this question can be directed to both the teacher and principal.

Can parents see class set up via pictures or zoom to see the new covid set up our children are in? Are children still getting 1 on 1 support with teacher maintaining social distancing.

Parents are encouraged to follow up directly with their child's teacher to better understand how they have organized their classroom to meet our new health and safety guidelines.

I would like staff to tell parents to stand away from the doors to give more space when the kids are coming out of there doors for after school pick up.

Again, your child's principal would be happy to listen to your concerns and work with parents to find a resolution.

Why don't kids have option to fill up their water bottles from the water fountains.

The public health guidance for K-12 settings as set out by the BC Centre for Disease Control is recommending schools do not use water fountains but only re-filling water stations. Should students forget a water bottle, schools will make available disposable cups to use available sinks and water-bottle filling stations.

7. NWSS Specific Questions:

[Thank you for the questions below and parent should pose school specific questions to the principal, grade level administrator or counsellor for additional assistance.](#)

Will NWSS be demolished in the New West tradition? ie like Woodlands Hospital and Pier Park

How many spares are grade 12's able to receive?

Buses for Queensborough students to get to school????

Please ask more information from NWSS custodians.

How would be possible for students to handle classes that they didn't choose?

Why does new westminster have more contact time than other districts for high school?

How do you make lunch hour safer particularly when weather is bad and students can't use Mercer stadium?

8. DISTRICT

what are you going to do for health care workers if school closes again as we are mandated to work and school is our childcare

We will continue to provide supports as described in the province's 5 stage re-start plan. One of the four guiding principles is to provide the services needed to support the children of our essential workers.

How is the district managing the current smoke issue - the pier fire, more than the wildfire smoke. Have they installed any HEPA filters? How are they cleaning the toxic dust from this fire off of playground equipment and out of the classrooms and school ventilation systems?

Can the school provide an air purifier to each classroom?

Our HVAC filters have all been upgraded to MERV-13. Given our HVAC upgrades at our schools, our classrooms do not require air purifiers. This week has also been challenging with the additional smoke from the New Westminister Pier Fire and we have been strictly following the advice from Fraser Health. Further we have restricted outdoor access given the poor air quality. We are hopeful the air quality index will continue to improve over the weekend.

Montessori spot should be guaranteed for a child who already is going to the Montessori. We, as a parent are stranded with our second child too who was about to start her Kindergarten next year because if first is out of Montessori, second may not get priority either to get into the program. As a Healthcare worker, that's the least I can expect. This is one frustrated parent who is not satisfied with the system and look forward to your input and action on this.

We are doing our best to work with parents who may be selecting our online option to see what we can do to ensure your placement within any program of choice. We encourage any parent to follow up with your child's principal to discuss your unique circumstances.

Once the pandemic situation improves, how will the district ensure that any additional funds that have been put in place aren't taken away? Is there a plan to reallocate those resources to improving class sizes and retaining added teachers/staff?

The resources purchased with our provincial and federal funds will remain to support students and staff. In terms of additional staffing, those funds have been provided to support the 2020-21 school year.

As much as we all want our kids to be active and involved in extra curriculars like music, drama and gym, I think right now, less exposure time in school keeps kids/teachers safer and reduces the risk of possible transmissions. Has it been considered to maybe cut those classes during this extreme time so the kids are in school less hours on Days these activities Would normally fall on?

How many janitor are hired per school?

We have day and evening custodians within our schools. With larger sites such as NWSS, we employ several daytime and evening custodians.

What is learning support for kids needing to quarantine at home? I am sure some cohorts will experience this during the school year.

Will there be any online learning opportunities for children who are home for an extended time due to isolating for family members for COVID-19?

Yes, teachers will continue to support students who need to be self-isolating at home due to COVID-19.

Why is money more important then the health and welfare of teachers and students?

What is the New Westminster School district plan to deal with regularly socializing children with their teachers and classmates from the home school for children who choose the online learning option, since this is for the whole school year, this is especially important for especially for the children attending kindergarten.

What support systems are you putting in place for parents who both work and have to pull kids off school due to sickness?

Why is the school plan not focusing on funding actions to support smaller class sizes? This has not been addressed at all. I mean all other learning facilities accommodate smaller class sizes (eg sport clubs), why can't the school district implement this as well?

When in a single weekend you have over 400 people infected, you are still sending our kids to school to put them, the teachers and the parents at risk. Why?

9. FUTURE PLANS

If COVID19 cases start to infect the elementary school population, what steps will be taken if it starts to become more widespread? I.e. would the school invest into doing a remote learning/in-class hybrid learning model if needed?

Despite following all the guidelines and recommendations, an outbreak seems like it could be probable. What is the plan in place if this comes to pass (obviously it's going to look different depends on age and school, but looking for a general walkthrough please)

What is your plan should a major outbreak occur and schools are forced to shut down as there was no clear communication of a virtual learning backup plan

What happens if there is a positive Covid test. Does the school shut down or just the cohort?

Will schools require students and staff to remain home until they are completely asymptomatic or will the school district permit people with residual long term symptoms to return to the schools? If symptomatic individuals are allowed back in school, what procedures will be adopted to ensure the health and safety of others at school even if the symptomatic individual is no longer infectious? Will there be medical opinions sought prior to re-entry?

What happens when there is an outbreak of any infectious disease within a learning pod? Will the school close for a predetermined period of time?

What happens if there is an outbreak outside the learning pods? For example, many students and staff participate in extra-curricular activities or before/after school program and if the science is still correct that asymptomatic individuals can spread the disease before they become symptomatic, will the school close the impacted learning pods for 10 days?

If cases are on the rise how and when do you decide to close school or schools?

What is the plan if a person at a New West school has Covid? What is the plan if there were an outbreak at school. Parents and students should be aware of the "what ifs" before this actually happens, so they can respond better.

[For the above questions, please refer to page 9 of this document– Management of Illness and Confirmed Cases](#)

How do you prevent students from congregating in groups?

[Through ongoing education and supervision within our schools.](#)

If sanitizing sprays are used in schools, what are they made of, and how do we ensure that they will not have long term impact to children's health due to continuous use and exposure to possibly toxic substances?

[N/A](#)

We need a bus from qboro to nwss

[We continue to advocate for additional bus support with Translink. Our Board of Education will be discussing this agenda item again at its October 13 Education Policy and Planning Meeting.](#)

Here are two texts that parents have forwarded to me:

1. So a FB post went around the Eat New West group where a cranky old man posted pictures of NWSS crowding into the Wendy's at lunch. There were concerns about posting pictures of minors so the post was taken down, but the problem of 25-30 kids crowding into Wendy's and pushing tables together to sit in groups of 8-10 remains. While it is up to Wendy's staff to enforce distancing etc, is it worth an email to the principal asking them to remind kids? Or to send out an email to parents asking them to remind kids?

[Thank you – this is a worthwhile to email the principal to determine appropriate next steps.](#)

2. We were concerned with the groups that we saw on NWSS property yesterday morning not distancing and no masks as well as some vaping. However when I picked my kids up at lunch, almost all kids were walking home with masks. I am waiting for the report from my kids today about how lunch was handled then I am considering sending an email to principal if not satisfied by the end of week. I have still not received an email back from him from almost three weeks ago with some very important questions that I felt needed to be answered. Perhaps it would be good to approach this at the PAC meeting. I hope that is advertised for all to attend.

I have also received personal emails & emails to the DPAC chair- see below:

1. Students at NWSS are not allowed to eat in the classroom or in the school. Where / how exactly are 2000 kids supposed to eat and maintain physical distancing?? Could allowing kids to eat in their classroom with their cohort be considered??

[For this specific question please contact your child's principal directly for a timely response.](#)

2. Can we please have a designated Grade 12 VP???

Grade 12 is a very busy and important year and the kids (and their parents) need to know who to contact with concerns.

We are short a VP this year so the principal is apparently supposed to be the Gr 12 administrator. But he is too busy at this time to deal with Grade 12 course requirements, grad photos, yearbook stuff, etc. Fortunately Mr Lekakis is sending out all of the info, but he is not the one we are meant to talk to. My child got a call from Ms Kwan / Quan who is supposed to be filling in but we don't even know how to reach her. We understand that things are under constant change right now, but the grade 12 students need to be certain they can graduate and need an administrator they can contact.

Principal Murray McLeod is the designated administrator for all Grade 12 students.

My grade 12 student and I completed the online course request through the district before school went back as required. However we didn't receive any email about the online classes. The email was supposed to come by yesterday. My kid reached out to the school counsellor and the New West Online team to ask what the deal is since there was no communication. And there were a couple of changes that were being requested. Our child's plan is to only take one (mandatory) in person (French) class and do the rest online. However, it seems that the Virtual School people 'never received the request from the district' to put my kid in online English and Careers 12, both of which are required for graduation.

I'm hoping that there are not other kids out there that are in the same boat. At least my kid is self-directed and will follow up to ensure graduation requirements are met. But I'm sure there are other kids out there who are less concerned/ diligent. At this point, we have heard nothing about online classes and so far there has only been one day of in-person class. So it was hard to fill out the survey. Guess I should have waited!

Questions for district: have you been able to confirm that all Grade 12 students have been placed in courses required for graduation?

Thank you for sharing the above concern and we apologize for the delay. District Principal Pam Craven is aware that there were technical issues with some of the course selections and has been working directly with the NWSS counselling team and impacted families.