



Wednesday, September 2, 2020



School will reopen for ALL students on Wednesday, September 9th.

Good day, Hillview families;

Well, here we are...finally on the edge of re-opening Hillview Academy for another school year. It has certainly been an unprecedented, unusual time in education (as it has for almost every other aspect of society). With the concerns and restrictions around COVID-19, school opening this year will be different, but many things will remain the same.

Teachers and staff are looking forward to welcoming your children back to school.

Although many of you may have questions, ideas and suggestions, at this time, the school must operate under the guidance of the NLESD. I know that there may be more questions than answers right now...we certainly ask for your patience and cooperation as we work through a new way of doing school.

I am confident that, with time, we will be able to continue with some procedures and practices that we have become accustomed to here at Hillview; for now, however, school operating parameters regarding COVID screening, busing, hygiene practice, physical distancing, lunch/recess routines, cohort integrity, instructional practice, and others, have been outlined by the NLESD in their "[A Safe Return to School](#)" document. I encourage you to take a close look at this document.

The NLESD has a number of "Return to School" resources available on their website. You will get a lot of your questions answered in the FAQ section; take some time to check it out at <https://www.nlesd.ca/families/schoolreopening.jsp>.

More information will be shared at a later time, for now, please give attention to the highlights that follow below.

In spite of COVID, we will have a great year at Hillview!

Sincerely,

Mr. P Wheeler

School Opening Information for Students and Parents:

COVID-19 Screening Procedures:

Every morning, before your child leaves for school, your child must complete the [School Screening Questionnaire](#). If your child exhibits two or more symptoms:

1. **Child should stay home.**
2. **Contact 811 to get further guidance from the public health authority.**

A child who gets sick at school will be placed in our supervised health room; a parent will be called and expected to pick up the child as soon as possible. A child who becomes sick at school will not be permitted to take the bus home.

Student Transportation:

Busing:

We are still awaiting some direction on the final status of busing. For now, here are the guidelines:

1. Buses will be restricted to “approved” riders. Approved riders will be determined by the NLESD; the school will contact the parents of approved riders as information becomes available.
2. **ALL courtesy stops have been suspended at this time;** this means that our bus will no longer be stopping at the Boys and Girls Club.
3. Approved riders will be assigned seats. **Masks will be required.** The school will provide a washable, reusable non-medical mask to every student; however, **students will need to wear their own mask on the bus ride and during school time of the first day.**

Student Drop-off:

We anticipate a higher than usual number of parents dropping off students. To be courteous and maintain an orderly traffic flow, please note the following:

1. **School doors will not open until 8:30am.** Students dropped off early will not be permitted inside the building.
2. Do not use the inside bus lane for student drop-off. The outside lane (closer to the road) is designated for student drop-off.
3. Do not linger. Move forward in to the parking lot to avoid blocking traffic on the main road.
4. Please respect physical distancing guidelines when entering the school.
5. Respect designated “No Parking” areas.

Outside Visitors/Guests:

For now, parents (and other non-essential guests) will not be permitted to enter the building.



Recess and Lunch:

Students will remain inside of their classrooms for recess and lunch. There will be times when outdoor spaces will be used. There must be some change to past practice, so please note the following:

1. Pack a recess snack/lunch with items that you know your child will eat.
2. Make sure that all containers are able to be opened by your child. Provide necessary utensils. Teachers are not permitted to assist in opening lunch containers.
3. All recyclable containers (i.e. juice boxes, cans, etc.) must be brought back home.
4. **There will be no lunch drop-off at this time.** Lunches/recess snacks must be brought to the school by the student.
5. **Students are permitted to be picked up by parents to go home for lunch.**
6. **There will be no canteen services at this time.**
7. **Water fountains will be accessible for refilling of water bottles.** Please label your child's water bottle.

Classrooms, Student Movement, Physical Distancing, and Masks:

Classrooms have been arranged to maximize distancing between students. There will be assigned seating.

For the most part, except for PE and Music, students will stay in their cohort groups inside the classroom. There will be directional markers in our hallways to help in traffic flow.

Masks will be required by all students on the bus and during transition inside our building. Masks are optional inside the classroom; however, in grades 7-9, masks are required in the classroom when physical distancing of 1 meter cannot be maintained. The school will provide a washable, reusable non-medical mask to every student; however, **students will need to wear their own mask on the bus ride and during school time of the first day.**

Hand Hygiene:

Students will be expected to practice appropriate hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette.

Students will be expected to wash/sanitize their hands before entering the school and classroom, after they use school equipment, before/after eating, and after using the washroom.

Hand sanitizing stations will be placed inside classrooms; washrooms will be maintained with adequate hand washing supplies.

Please do not bring personal hand sanitizer to school. Some sanitizers may be scented and cause sensitivity problems; as well, not all sanitizer meets the standard for hand disinfection. The school will have adequate (approved) hand sanitizer for student and staff use.

Student Supplies:

Students cannot share school supplies. It is important that each child has a personal supply of necessary school supplies. We encourage the use of book bags/backpacks; the availability of “cubby” or locker storage may be limited at this time.

Breakfast Program:

Our breakfast program will be limited to “Grab n Go” items for now. The details regarding how these items will be distributed are still being worked out. The breakfast program should be ready to begin on Monday, Sept. 14th.

Kindergarten (First Day):

The NLESD understands and appreciates the importance of supporting Kindergarten children as they transition to their first day of school. As such, the District is providing some flexibility to organize Kindergarten entry to the school, with a parent, in a manner which respects class cohorts, physical distancing at the point of entry, and mask protocols.

Kindergarten parents will be contacted at a later time with details regarding how we will accommodate a parent guest on opening day.