

nk'mápəlqs i snmamáya?tn i kəl sqilx^wtət

Cultural Immersion Program

16 Bonneau Road, Vernon BC



August 10, 2020

Introduction

- The latest indicators suggest that we will be living in a COVID-19 era for at least the next 2-3 years, or until mass, successful, vaccination is implemented across the Country.
- Children are likely the largest driver of community transmission, although least impacted by COVID-19, therefore it is our responsibility to teach them to become the most responsible in promoting preventative health measures.
- Many parents are Elders, and will be vulnerable to community transmission. It is our responsibility to prevent transmission of COVID-19 to these caregivers and knowledge keepers. In addition, many community members and OKIB staff have compromised immune systems and would likely not fare well with COVID-19, therefore setting school disease prevention standards at a higher level is important to the health and wellbeing of OKIB.
- All plans mentioned below will continue to evolve as we get closer and enter into the new school term. Parents and community will continue to receive updates through email and OKIB social media. Change or the *'new normal'* will be difficult but vital to the health and welling of this community.
- Parents and/or caregivers should start teaching/acclimatizing their children to wear and care for their masks before school begins in September. This will be especially important for younger children and those with tactile challenges. **Set an example**, start wearing a mask when out of the house, in-places where social distancing is difficult. Hyper-regular handwashing and cleansing is very important and should also become part of daily practice long before school begins. Parents please start teaching your children hyper-vigilant hygiene practices.

TENTATIVE RE-OPENING PLAN: nk'mápəlqs i snmamáya?tn i kəl sqilx^wtət

Teachers will return to work September 8th, classrooms will be re-organized and prepared for meeting COVID-19 hygiene protocols. We expect to commence with an outdoor “on-the-land” learning cultural and language learning camp for the week of September 14-18th, with regular classes to resuming on September 21. The preliminary plan is to accept all enrolled children from K4-G7. Class enrollment is currently:

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(K4) 20; (K5) 19; (G1) 12; (G2-3) 17; (G4-5) 6; (G6-7) 12. [Total 86]

Classes will stay together throughout the day and there will be minimal interaction between classes.

K4 will be split into a morning group 8:30-11:30 (10 students) and an afternoon group 12:30-3:30 (10 students). Children will receive a substantial nutritious snack, but no lunch.

K5 will run all day; however, they will not interact with other students in the Daycare. The school is currently investigating plans of splitting K5, like K4, into a morning and afternoon program, with some students remaining throughout the entire day.

Non-medical masks will be required for all children G1 through G7. Children should bring two-three masks to school each day so that they can exchange their mask as they become soiled. Masks will need to be washed and dried each night.

G1-7 will operate full-days, however, if COVID becomes worse students can move to a hybrid program on in-class and on-line. Children who are sick will be required to stay home and complete all assignments and work using their school laptop.

G1 will have the portable to its self and classes will run full day, desks will have plexiglass installed. The language and cultural teachers will move into the G4-5 classroom inside the main school building.

G2-3 will be in the school basement, plexiglass will be installed around the desks.

G4-5 will move into the Gr 6-7 classroom, plexiglass will be installed around the desks.

G6-7 will move into the New Horizon's building with plexiglass installed around the desks.

Language and cultural program will be taught in small groups (5 students) in the school or larger groups can be taught outside, on-the-land. An outdoor tent will be rented/purchased and set-up close to the school for outdoor assemblies and larger group classes. Smaller groups can also use the gazebo behind the New Horizon's Building.

Outdoor classrooms will be utilized as much as possible, including the gazebo behind New Horizon's, the qwi'ci at Komasket part (investigate lighting, heating and transportation), and a tent will be erected permanently on the school grounds, including at snc'c'amala?tn. Whenever possible, weather permitting, many of the classes (physical education, language and culture) will be taught outside. Masks can be removed when outside if social distancing can be maintained.

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Twice daily health checks for children and staff will be required to complete a self-assessment each morning and their temperature will be taken twice per day (morning and at lunch). If a child is sick, even with a common cold, they will be immediately separated from their learning group and parents will be called to come and pick-up the child immediately. Children must remain at home, under quarantine for 14-days, or until they have received a negative diagnosis for COVID-19 and their symptoms have subsided.

Schooling for home is not easy; however, it will be imperative to keep children on-track while they recuperate/quarantine at home. Whenever, possible teachers will try to record class lessons to post on-line. Children in quarantine will be invited to attend some classes through Zoom, at appointed times. All children will have a school laptop, and many should now be familiar on how to access class lessons online. Parents are responsible for not letting their child fall-behind with their school work. Teachers cannot provide both in-class and on-line instruction on a regular basis. While we remain in stage 2 teachers will operate classroom learning.

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>

Children and parents who do not wish to send their children to school will have to investigate **online home-schooling through the Province** and additional resources can be found through First Nations Education Steering Committee webpage and copies of the revised Story of our Ways, including teaching curriculum, is available for purchase through the Band office.

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<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/classroom-alternatives/homeschooling>

<http://www.fnesc.ca/learningfirstpeoples/k-3/>

<http://www.fnesc.ca/learningfirstpeoples/>

Busing ALL children riding the school bus or in any other school vehicle, which does not allow for social distancing, will be required to wear their mask while on the bus. Children should sit in family groups on the bus and self-distance when possible. The buses/vehicles will be thoroughly cleaned after each trip (am/pm).

Lunch program will be available to ALL students. This will involve a nutritious bagged lunch which, including traditional foods. School snack and bagged lunches will be prepared daily in the New Horizon's kitchen and/or at the Daycare kitchen. Parents must opt into the lunch program at the beginning of the year. Uneaten lunches and snack will be sent home with the children each day.

Longer-term two new portable classrooms will be ordered to replace the New Horizons' classroom and provide additional classroom space for the Gr 2-3 class. The G2-3 basement room will become a multipurpose room.

HVAC air purifications systems are being investigated for each classroom. Whenever possible (weather permitting) classroom windows will remain open during the school day.

The school will investigate hiring a **daytime cleaner/handyman**, to make sure classrooms and desks are wiped-down 2-3 times per day. This is in addition to the regular nightly cleaning.

Classroom technology will be set-up in the new locations, with additional cameras and audio equipment to assist with class recordings.

New staff TBA

Elementary teachers, including teacher on-call

Elementary Education Assistants (x2)

School cook