

August 28, 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Good afternoon, bienvenue, and καλησπέρα. With the start of the new school year fast approaching Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Larkin and I would like to thank you for your patience as we have been working on the district's plan for a safe return to school for students and staff. We can appreciate this has been a stressful time as you await further information. Now that the district has shared the main pieces of our district plan I want to share with you the Brooks specific details of our safe return.

- The Ministry's [K-12 Education Restart Plan](#) is designed to maintain high standards of educational instruction while lowering the risk of transmission of COVID-19.
- The goal of the Framework is to maximize in-class instruction for all students while meeting the revised [BC Centre for Disease Control \(BCCDC\) school safety guidelines](#).
- The Framework aligns with [BC's Restart Plan](#) and includes comprehensive COVID-19 health and safety measures. Having students in the classroom helps to minimize learning gaps and provide the academic, social and emotional supports essential for learning.

### Brooks Back to School Overall Plan

Our back to school plan which was communicated through the SD47 School Board aligns with the above guidelines and is guided by the four foundational principles established at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families, teachers and staff
- Provide the services needed to support the children of our essential workers (ESWs)
- Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance
- Provide continuity of educational opportunity for all students

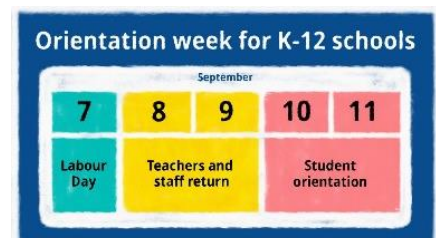
### First Week Back

The plan for students to return based on the adjustments announced by the Ministry of Education will be that Brooks will open on September 10, 2020 for students. Our plan is to look at a similar start that we would have to start the year. Here's the initial plan with more details to follow:

September 10, 2020 Schedule: - **Note: updated Sept 4, 2020 – No bus service**

- Grade 8 and 9s in session from 9:00am – 10:00am
- Grade 10, 11, and 12s in session from 10:30pm – 11:30am

Friday September 11, 2020 is the first full day  
(see details below for Gr 8/9 or Grades 10-12)



### Grade 8/9 Restart Plan (Middle School Model): Cohort and yearlong

*Days: Monday – Friday Time: 9:00am – 3:10pm.* This model is embedded in best practices around learning and increasing engagement. Students will be grouped in Grade 8 or Grade 9 classes and will remain with the same classmates and classroom all year.

### Grade 10-12 (Graduation Program – 2 Courses per Term).

*Days: Monday – Friday Time: 10:30am – 3:20pm.* This model is a response to the pandemic as it attempts to decrease the number of courses being offered at one time while inside the five stages as outlined by the Ministry of Education. To view the Graduation Program requirements at a glance, please click [HERE](#). Students will be enrolled in two courses at time that are a term in length. Daily they will attend their one class in the morning and the other class in the after-noon.

**Course Changes:**

It is our plan to provide Grade 10-12s their two course selection for Term 1 and 2. These will all be viewable on the portal. For anyone that requires a paper copy we will also make them available near the end of next week. Counselling staff will be available for appointments the week before school starts. Please contact our main office to book a time.

**Student health and safety.**

Students are expected to follow the guidelines as described within the BC Restart plan. This includes maintaining their own safety and hygiene throughout all times while at school. As a school we have enhanced our cleaning and disinfecting protocols, we have added additional hand washing or sanitizing stations, added floor markings and information posters, placed physical barriers such as in our main office and the divider door in the Great Hall, and staggered our start times, recess, and dismissal. Students will be required to clean their hands frequently, cover their faces when they cough/sneeze and not share food, school supplies or equipment. They will also be required to stay home when sick.

**Sports**

Please note that PE classes and sports are different as PE is a school course that will continue within classes and cohorts. For athletics, BC School Sports has suspended all of our inter-school competitions until further notice. In my initial planning with our athletics staff we are looking at putting a proposal together after we re-open that may resemble a house style training series. The first "sports" would consider will be outdoor if we are able to meet all of the health requirements such as possibly beach volleyball, cross-country, and even soccer.

**Bus service**

Two runs will happen each morning and one in the after-noon. Grade 8 or 9s will be the first pick-up together for a 9:00am start. The Grade 10 -12s will be pick up together for a 10:30am start. At the end of the day there is a 10 minute staggered dismissal for students. Grade 8,9 students can be pick-up and away from the building before the Grade 10-12s are dismissed. Any students that need a bus to return home will be on a combined run. It is my hope that where possible some families will arrange another way home for their students so the return bus numbers remain lower.

**Supplies:**

Have your own water bottle and supplies. Bottle fill stations will be working throughout the building yet the fountains are still turned off. Do not share your school supplies with others. Students that require a locker will be able to have one and will be assigned within cohort areas. Grade 8,9s will be located as close as we can to their classroom and for Grades 10-12s the location is based on their Term 1 block A class.

**French Immersion:**

The Grade 8,9 classes will be a cohort together year-long. The grade 10 French Immersion will run within the a 2 classes per term model.

**Indigenous Education:**

We have put together a number of layers of support for the upcoming year. Along with our district staff we are pleased to welcome Mrs. J. Johnson who will be working out of Brooks to provide extra support and be a resource for embedding Indigenous understandings throughout the school. The initial plan is to also have Mr. Peters offering support Monday – Friday each morning at Ahms Tah’aw and Mrs. Peters two days a week offering cultural and language support for our students.

I want to share my sincere thanks to all of our staff who have been responsive and thoughtful as we have put together a district plan that allowing us to stay safe, and continue learning during a very difficult time. I hope each of you have taken the time this summer to recharge and reset ahead of the new school year. I look forward to welcoming each student back at Brooks on Thursday September 10, 2020.

Take care

Bill Rounis

Principal