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Dear parents, guardians, caregivers, and home helpers,

Welcome back to a school year that is promised not to look like anything I have ever seen or experienced. Although the current situation is less than perfect, I am so excited to be at South Sahali, and I look forward to meeting you all.

A little about me... I grew up in Kamloops and was in French Immersion myself, at Lloyd George Elementary. I completed both my Bachelor of Human Kinetics (Physical Education) and Bachelor of Education (FSL) at UBC and taught Physical Education, French as a Second Language and French Immersion in Richmond for 5 years before returning to Kamloops, where I grew up. Since my return, I have taught in the French Immersion program at Marion Schilling and Lloyd George. I am starting my ninth year in administration. I was a vice principal for five years on the North Shore and principal at Westmount Elementary for the past three years. Although it's been a while since I've used my French, I am very much looking forward to speaking French on a daily basis in the coming weeks.

As the health landscape in British Columbia morphs and changes, so must the protocols and routines at school. We are doing our best to keep things as simple as possible, but it is a complex situation which requires flexibility on everyone's behalf in order for our school re-start plan to be successful. When your child(ren) return to school next week, things will look a little different. Please take a few moments to review the following information as a family so that both you and your children know what to expect when you arrive. The information has been taken from the [Health and Safety Guidelines](#), posted on the [SD73 website](#).

1. The health screening will look a little different than it did in June.
 - a. Any student who has symptoms of COVID-19, has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, OR was identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak, ***must stay home*** and self-isolate, including children of essential service workers.
 - b. **NEW** Students may still attend school if a member of their household has cold, influenza, or COVID-19-like symptoms, provided the student is asymptomatic. It is expected that the symptomatic household member is seeking assessment by a health-care provider.
 - c. **NEW** Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19-like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.
 - d. **NEW** Parents/caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory

disease before sending them to school. There is a health screening document attached to this e-mail that will need to be signed by you and returned to the school prior to your child(ren) attending school.

- i. Please print off a form for each child in your household, sign it, and have him/her/them bring it to school on their first day. If you do not have a printer at home, we will have some copies at the school in the lower drop-off zone in the morning. If you do not have a printer at home and are unable to accompany your child(ren) to the school, please let the school know and we will send home a hard copy with him/her/them the first day he/she/they attend(s).
 - ii. School staff **will not** be screening students for symptoms, checking temperatures, etc. However, if your child(ren) develop(s) symptoms while at school, you will be contacted to pick him/her/them up as soon as possible. You should then contact your healthcare provider for further assessment. Once your family physician or nurse practitioner has determined that he/she/they do not have COVID-19, he/she/they may return to school **once symptoms resolve**.
 - iii. **If a child has any symptoms, they must not go to school.**
2. Students will be required to wash their hands frequently throughout the day.
 - a. When they arrive at school,
 - b. Before and after any break (ie. recess and lunch),
 - c. Before and after eating (excluding drinking from their water bottle at their desk)
 - d. Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple cohorts (gym, portable, library, etc.),
 - e. After using the washroom,
 - f. Whenever hands are visibly dirty.
 - g. Hand sanitizer will be used upon entering and exiting the portable (for music). Students will still be required to wash their hands before and after leaving their classroom.
3. Water fountains are closed; however, water filling stations are still available. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle from home, which they can refill as needed.
4. Schools are considered a controlled environment by public health. This is because schools include a consistent grouping of people (students and staff), and there are robust illness policies for students and staff. This also means that the school remains closed to the public, which means that parents will not be permitted to enter the school, at this time, without an appointment. All exterior doors will remain locked from the outside. You will be required to drop your children off either at the bottom drop off area or outside their classroom. We also ask you and your child(ren) to maintain physical distancing measures (2m) while you are on school property.

- a. If you need to enter the school for some reason, you will need to call the office and make an appointment. Prior to entering the school, you will be required to perform a health screening and wear a mask.
5. Cohorts have been created to reduce the number of in-person, close interactions a person has in school without requiring physical distancing to be consistently practiced. At SSES, our cohorts can be composed of up to 60 people (including teachers and CEAs). Cohorts will not be changed unless it is required to support optimal school functioning. Consistent seating arrangements will also be encouraged. Unless they are part of the same cohort, students, staff and other adults should maintain physical distance from each other at all times, including recess and lunch.
 - a. Cohorts have been determined based upon a number of different elements such as grade level, class proximity to each other, composition, etc.
 - b. Family grouping and “social bubble” requests will ***not*** be considered to create cohorts.
 - c. Students from different cohorts may be together to receive beneficial supports, programs, services (ie. for reading groups). Within these supports or services, it is expected that cohorts and physical distance are maintained as much as practical to do so while still ensuring the support, program, or service continues.
6. Students in Grades 4-7 will use non-medical masks when physical distancing cannot be consistently maintained, and no other controls are feasible and when interacting with staff or students outside of their cohort for extended periods of time.
 - a. Those who choose to wear a non-medical mask must still seek to maintain physical distance from people outside of their cohort. There must be no crowding, gathering, or congregating of people from different cohorts, even if non-medical masks are worn.
7. Pick-up and drop-off times will be staggered in order to limit the amount of congestion and congregating on school property. We also ask that you do not park if it is not needed. As best they can, families with the last name beginning with the letters **A-L are asked to drop their child(ren) off at 8:20am and pick him/her/them up at 2:40pm**. Families with the last name beginning with the letters **M-Z are asked to drop their child(ren) off at 8:30am and pick him/her/them up at 2:50pm**. Of course, this does not apply to students who ride the bus, or students being picked up by daycare providers.
 - a. Students who **ride the bus** to and from school will need to follow additional guidelines while on the bus.
 - i. You will need to wash your hands before you leave home and when you leave your class, prior to getting on the bus.
 - ii. Listen to the bus driver as to where to sit, as he/she will be trying to organize everyone to limit the number of close interactions you have with others.

- iii. Sit by yourself by the window if there is room, or share your seat with a member of your household or your cohort.
 - iv. Wear a non-medical mask or face covering if you are in Grade 4-7. Your mask should be put on before loading the bus and taken off after offloading the bus.
8. Recess and lunch times will also be staggered to allow for more space for children to play. Cohorts will be designated a zone in which to play and they will rotate through each of these zones throughout the week.
9. Students will access their classroom via their exterior fire door, where available. Those classrooms without an exterior door will enter the school via the door closest to their classroom. Classroom teachers will teach and review this new routine in the first few days of school.

Other things that will be different:

- There will be no school-wide assemblies.
- There will not be any inter-school sporting events.
- Students will not have access to the telephone in the office. If they need to call home for any reason, Mme. Lisa will need to do it for them. Please make sure to make all after-school plans at home, prior to coming to school.
- Movement in the hallways will move in a clockwise direction.
- There is to be absolutely no sharing of food.

I know that is a lot of information for you to receive and process. Please feel free to call the school if you have questions about what school will look like in a couple of weeks and we will do our best to answer them as best we can. Please keep in mind that the decisions that are made at the District level and school level are based upon the guidelines and recommendations provided by the Ministry of Education. These are subject to change at a moment's notice, and, as we have frequently seen, they often do.

As stated in my Synervoice message on Sunday night, teachers will be phoning each family on either Tuesday, September 8th or Wednesday, September 9th to confirm your plans for school this year. If you are not planning on sending your child back to school next week, please call the school so that we can discuss your options.

Thank you for taking the time to read this very lengthy e-mail. I look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,



Susie Mabee

Principal

École South Sahali Élémentaire

