



Vedder Middle School

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Principal: Gabe D'Archangelo

Vice Principal: Sharon Bernard

Acting Vice Principal: Sarah Gamboa

Dear VMS Parents/Guardians:

As you are aware, the Provincial Health Officer announced a number of adjustments to the Health and Safety Protocols for students and staff in schools across the province. As a number of these changes take effect tomorrow, Friday, February 5th, it is important that you are aware what we will be reviewing, updating and sharing with students, upon their arrival to VMS tomorrow.

UPON ARRIVAL AT VMS:

- Students are to go directly to their assigned rooms, as per their classroom teacher's directions, following all Health and Safety protocols for sanitation of hands AND adhering to social distancing protocols.
- Students are not to congregate with friends, on the school grounds or in the school upon arrival onto our school grounds in the morning or upon dismissal at the end of the day UNLESS they are waiting for their transportation.

USAGE OF MASKS:

- Students, Staff and all Visitors to the school, are REQUIRED to wear a non-medical mask in all areas of the school, including the school grounds throughout the school day.
- Masks can be removed by students only when:
 - they are sitting at their own desk/workspace and can maintain a 2-metre distance from their peers
 - there is a barrier in place
 - they are eating or drinking or
 - they have a pre-existing condition where the usage of a mask is deemed to be at risk to the student
- In Physical Education classes, masks will be worn at all times unless the activity is deemed strenuous.
- In Band, masks are to be worn at all times except for when students are playing an instrument that cannot be played while wearing a mask.

SANITIZING AND HANDWASHING:

- Students will sanitize/wash their hands:
 - When they arrive at school entering their classroom
 - Before and after any breaks (Recess, Lunch)
 - Before and after eating and drinking
 - Before and after using an indoor learning space, which is accessed by other Learning Groups (Gym, Band room, Exploratory Classroom, etc.)
 - After using the washroom
 - After sneezing or coughing
 - Whenever hands are visibly dirty

CLASSROOM SEATING:

- There will be consistent, assigned classroom seating arrangements
- Seating will be arranged to create space between students/staff
- Face to Face seating will be limited as much as possible

PLEASE ALSO NOTE:

- The Ministry has worked with BCCDC and created a [daily health check mobile app](#) for parents to complete before their student heads to school in the morning. This can be used as a daily COVID health check. This app will have the most recent BCCDC health guidelines and will provide advice based on answers to the checklist questions regarding whether or not a child should stay at home.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in supporting the forementioned protocols. Please reach out with any questions or concerns you may have at your convenience.

Gabe