Dear École Herbert Spencer Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We hope that you are well, staying safe, and have enjoyed a wonderful summer.

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to École Herbert Spencer Elementary School on September 7th. We have been working hard to ensure that the health and safety of our students and staff remains our first priority. We would like to provide you with further information about what you can expect when your child returns to school.

We will be continuing with the following safety measures:

* All staff, adults and students in Grades 4 through 12\* are required to wear masks in all indoor areas of the school, including at their desks or if on a school bus.
* Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear masks.

\*Exemptions remain in place for students or staff who cannot wear masks or for times when masks may temporarily need to be removed. This includes when consuming food and drink, when actively engaging in an activity that requires temporary removal of the mask (eg. when playing a wind instrument), when communicating with or providing a service to a person with diverse needs who may depend on visual cues or facial expressions, when a person can not put on or remove their own mask without assistance, when a person can not tolerate a mask, when needing to quickly identify a person, or when speaking through a barrier.

* Daily Health Checks will continue to be required for students, staff and visitors. People should stay home if they are sick.
* The increased focus on hand and respiratory hygiene will continue, with similar access to handwashing and sanitizing options at all schools and sites.
* Enhanced cleaning protocols will remain in place.
* Staggered recess and lunch times
* Continued outdoor learning opportunities.
* Reminders about respecting others personal space.

Our bell schedule has generally remained the same. Please see below.

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| **WELCOME BELL** | **8:50 – DESIGNATED ENTRIES** |
| **INSTRUCTION** | **8:55 – 10:30 (Group A)****8:55 – 10:45 (Group B)** |
| **RECESS**  | **10:30 – 10:45 (Group A)****10:45 – 11:00 (Group B)** |
| **INSTRUCTION** | **10:45 – 12:24 (Group A)****11:00 – 12:24 (Group B)** |
| **LUNCH** | **12:24 – 1:10 (Group A will eat/play, Group B will play/eat)** |
| **INSTRUCTION** | **1:10 – 3:00** |
| **DISMISSAL** | **3:00 – DESIGNATED EXITS** |

As we move forward, communication will remain important.  We will continue to reach out using School Messenger and MyEd. Please be sure to check your junk folder at the beginning of the year to ensure that you are receiving all communications. A special welcome to our families whose children are beginning Kindergarten this year and any new families joining our community! If you need assistance regarding how to access information from the school, please contact us at 604.517.6030 or email us spencer@sd40.bc.ca .

**Information for the First Week of School**

Monday, September 6th: Labour Day (no school for students)

Kindergarten Students

* Kindergarten students will remain at home on Tuesday, September 7th
* Kindergarten students will be following a gradual entry schedule for the first two weeks. This information has been sent to all Kindergarten families in a separate email.

Grade 1 – 5 Students

* Tuesday, September 7th: Students in attendance from 8:50- 9:50am
* Wednesday, September 8th onwards: Students in attendance from 8:50- 3:00pm. Please send your child to school with a snack, a lunch, and a drink/ water bottle.
* A follow up email will be sent on Friday, September 3rd with information on where your child will line up and be picked up at the end of the day. We are asking parents to refrain from joining their child in line so that we are able to collect and release students in a safe manner

We have been made aware that some families may be under the impression that the homeroom assigned to their child in MyEd is their child’s homeroom for the upcoming school year. This is not necessarily the case. We need to move students into a homeroom for the upcoming year to allow us to monitor accurate numbers in each grade, but this does not denote classroom placement. Your child’s new homeroom will be confirmed with you by the end of the first week.

While classrooms may continue to look a little different, we want to assure you that we are working hard to plan for a positive learning experience for your child and look forward to the year ahead. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to connect.

Looking forward to an engaging and exciting year of learning,

Karen Catherwood Carly Eirikson

Principal Vice Principal

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