



# École Arbutus Global Middle School

*Celebrating Diversity. Seeking Sustainability.*

Sept. 4, 2020

## Stage 2 Return to School for 100% In-school Instruction

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Students in this learning model will attend school 100% of the time. Enrichment Programming such as Exploratory courses and Band/Strings will continue but in a reduced capacity to limit movement and interaction of groups in the school.

Students will attend one Exploratory per term instead of two, and Band and Strings will take place in smaller ensembles.

Based on guidelines from the Provincial Health Office, the Ministry of Education and our own SD61 COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan, the following safety guidelines below will be in place at Arbutus Global when your child returns to school in September. **Please go over these procedures with your child, before they come to school next week so they know what to expect.** Teachers will also be taking time to go over these protocols carefully and repeatedly this month with all students, so we can have a safe return for everyone.

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### AGMS COVID 19 Safety Guidelines

#### Entrance/Exit Protocols

1. Students will be met at their designated entrance door at the appointed time by their teacher (see times below). Each cohort (two classes) will be assigned a different door in the school to keep the cohorts apart. We will stagger the entrance and exit times so 4 of the cohorts (8 classes) will start **at 8:25 am**, and the other 5 cohorts (10 classes) will start **at 8:45 am**. (See bell schedules at bottom for full schedules). We are using 6 different numbered entrance/exit doors to minimize student interaction. (See map for your child's door). Students should arrive just before the time they need to line up, and leave the grounds immediately after being dismissed.

2. **Frequent handwashing/sanitizing** while at school will be essential. To avoid congestion in the washrooms, classes without sinks will have each student use hand sanitizer (supplied) to thoroughly clean hands upon arrival. Hands must also be washed when coming in from an outside break, returning from PHE, or before eating a snack, after handling sports equipment, and before leaving for the day. Classes close to a washroom can send one student at a time to wash hands upon arrival – teachers will review the proper handwashing protocol (both with sanitizer, and 20 seconds min. using soap and water).
3. **Minimizing physical contact** with others in the cohort is an important part of this plan. That means no high-fives, touching, hugs etc. However people in the same cohort can be closer than 2 metres.
4. **Maintaining a 2 metre distance** from others who are **not** in the same cohort **is extremely important** – the hallway floors are now also marked with blue masking tape to create one-way lanes with blue arrows showing traffic direction. Everyone must follow the blue arrows, and stay well right near the wall in hallways. Some doors now have one way entrances and exits – there are signs showing this. Masks must be worn when a 2 m. distance cannot be maintained between people from different cohorts.

## 5. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Staff and students will be wearing masks when in high traffic areas (e.g. hallways) in the building, or when interacting with others not in their cohort and a 2 m. distance cannot be maintained. They can also choose to wear a mask at any time.
- Students can choose to wear masks as well in the 100% in-school model, and those choices will be respected and supported so everyone feels safe and comfortable.
- Non-medical Face Masks can be provided for students requesting one. Students can also bring their own mask from home.
- Masks are not required at this point for students when working with others who are in their cohort.
- Staff working with students with diverse and complex needs may be wearing other PPE such as face shields and gloves.
- Masks should not typically be required outside due to the larger space and open air.

## **6. Washroom Use**

Since more than one cohort will use the washrooms, everyone must:

- Stop and check if others are in the washroom before entering
- Maximum 2 students in the main washrooms
- Stay 2 m. apart once in washroom
- Yield (this means stop and wait) at washroom doorways to others, so they can exit first, staying well back
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water for 20 seconds before leaving the washroom
- Washrooms will be cleaned regularly throughout the day (taps, counters and doors wiped down) by custodial staff

## **7. Personal belongings/food**

- There is no sharing of devices/materials/belongings, or food/drinks
- No homemade treats/food items can be brought to school this year
- Please label all personal belongings, e.g., masks, school supplies, pens/pencils
- Do not share pens and pencils
- Do not touch other's phones/devices – wipe down frequently

## **8. Cleaning Supplies/Routines**

- Clean towels and spray bottles of disinfectant are in each classroom for staff and students to keep work areas/supplies clean
- Hand sanitizer bottles are in each classroom
- Custodial staff also clean rooms and furniture daily, and wipe down all high touch points (e.g., doorknobs, railings) twice daily.

## **9. Unsupervised Time on School Grounds – Coming To and from School**

As difficult as it may be, all students must stay physically apart from others not in their cohort (two classes) when outside as well at all times – even when arriving and leaving the grounds. This means no mingling in groups, nor walking closely together, or playing games that involve any contact unless it is with someone in their cohort.

## **10. Proper Respiratory Etiquette** – everyone must practice coughing or sneezing into an inside corner of the elbow to stop the spread of any infection.

**11. Water Fountains:** Bottle filling stations are now open and operating for students to refill their water bottles, – all students should bring a water bottle, and not share of course.

**12. Daily Attendance:** We will be using the same ‘Safe Arrival’ system we would normally use; i.e., if your child arrives as scheduled then no automated call goes home, but if your child does not arrive at school as scheduled, a call will go home to parents.

**13. Lockers:** At this point until we can better see the traffic flow of cohort groups, lockers will not be assigned or used this fall and may remain out of use for the year, to avoid spreading any infection. Students should **bring a back pack** to keep belongings in. Parents should go ahead and purchase items on the regular school supply list (see AGMS website) but students should only bring what they need; no surplus supplies please as there is limited storage space in classrooms.

**14. Daily Health Checks prior to arrival** – this is a vital part of the plan and it critical that each person entering the school does a daily health check before arriving. Parents must ensure that your child is healthy and not exhibiting any symptoms of a respiratory illness, flu or COVID 19. (Please see the Daily Health Checklist included below.) **Students and staff with any symptoms must not come to school.** Parents must call 811, or consult a medical professional to ensure your child does not have COVID 19. ***Staff and families are expected to follow the advice of their health care provider on when they can safely return to school.***

***\*Parents please note:*** Anyone, students or staff, who becomes ill at school will be isolated and sent home, with rigorous cleaning after in any area where they may have been. School administration will follow up if there is a suspicion of COVID 19 and Island Health and the local Medical Health Officer will guide us if there is any required need for isolation, testing, or contact tracing in the school community.

**Travel Outside Canada:** All students who have travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days before the start of school must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days after arriving in Canada before attending school.

Also, anyone who has been a close contact of a confirmed COVID 19 case must similarly self-isolate for 14 days before attending school.

## 15. Air Ventilation and Outdoor Learning

- Staff will be keeping more windows open to increase ventilation in classrooms.
- Outdoor spaces will be used more often this year for instruction when feasible to reduce time indoors.
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Here are a few examples of the signage and floor markings students can expect.



*Thank you parents for reinforcing these guidelines – it will keep all of us safe in our community!*

Finally, I know it's been a long time since many of our students have been in school and we are keen to see them all. Despite some of the new limits in place, I know they too will be excited and we will work hard to make sure they are still pursuing their **passions**, being offered **challenges**, making **connections** with others and receiving the required **supports** from our staff as the year gets underway. With careful adherence to the above guidelines I know we can have a safe year ahead of us.

Rob Parker, Principal

## ● Daily Health Checklist

- Does your child have any of the following symptoms?

Fever (Body temperature  
> 37.5°C)

Cough

Abdominal pain

Disorientation

Congestion

Diarrhea

Sneezing

Sore throat

Difficulty breathing

Fatigue / Exhaustion

Chills

Vomiting

**AGMS Bell Schedules 2020-21** – \*Your child’s division and teacher name will be emailed next week

<b>Cohorts 1-5</b> 8:25 am – 2:40 pm Div. 2 – 11 except Div. 6 and 7 (8 classes)		<b>Cohorts 6-10</b> 8:45 am – 3 pm Div. 6 and 12-20 (10 classes)	
<b>Cohorts 1-5</b>	<u>Thursday Only</u>	<b>Cohorts 6-10</b>	<u>Thursday Only</u>
8:25 am Welcome Bell	8:25 am	8:45 am Welcome Bell	8:45 am
<b>8:30 am</b> Advisory (13 min.)	8:30 am	<b>8:50 am</b> Advisory (13 min.)	8:50 am
8:43 am Block 1 (42 min.)	8:46 am	9:03 am Block 1 (42 min.)	9:06 am
9:25 am Block 2 (42 min.)	9:28 am	9:45 am Block 2 (42 min.)	9:48 am
<b>10:07 am</b> Nutrition Break	10:10 am	<b>10:27 am</b> Nutrition Break	10:30 am
10:22 am Block 3 (42 min.)	10:25 am	10:42 am Block 3 (42 min.)	10:45 am
11:04 am Block 4 (42 min.)	11:07 am	11:24 am Block 4 (42 min.)	11:27 am
<b>11:46 am</b> Lunch in Class	11:49 am	<b>12:06 pm</b> Lunch in Class	12:09 am
<b>12:01 pm</b> Outside Play	12:04 pm	<b>12:21 pm</b> Outside Play	12:23 pm
12:31 pm Block 5 (43 min.)	12:34 pm	12:51 pm Block 5 (43 min.)	12:54 pm
1:14 pm Block 6 (43 min.)	1:16 pm	1:34 pm Block 6 (43 min.)	1:35 pm
1:57 pm Block 7 (43 min.)	1:57 pm	2:17 pm Block 7 (43 min.)	2:18 pm
<b>2:40 pm</b> Dismissal	2:40 pm	<b>3:00 pm</b> Dismissal	<b>3:00 pm</b>

\*Students will enter and exit school each day by cohort at one of 6 designated doors they are assigned