

CHASE RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1503 Cranberry Avenue

Nanaimo, BC V9R 6R7

Phone: 250-754-6983

Mr. David Cooper, Principal

Mrs. Christine De Vries, Secretary

September 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the entire Chase River Staff, welcome back to all of our returning families and a big welcome to Chase River to our new families. As a staff, we are delighted to be back in session and are looking forward to getting things underway. This newsletter is to provide families with some information about the first week. Our September newsletter will be sent out in the coming weeks with more details of the year.

This year there are some changes to how things were done last year, but also some things are staying the same. Our plan is to start the year slowly with re-introducing activities we were not able to do last year. For now we will not be having whole school gatherings. With direction from the health authority and district, our hope is to move to some small group gatherings in the coming months and eventually larger ones later in the year. We will keep families posted as we are able to open things up more.

Sincerely,

David Cooper



START-UP & OPENING DAY

First day back for students in grades 1-7 is Tuesday September 7th from 11 AM to 12 PM.



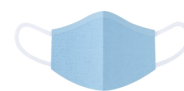
- ◆ All students will meet on the field and will go to "last year's" teacher.
- ◆ Students who were in Ms. Ross/Ms. Aspen's class will go with Mr. Preston. Mr. Preston's grade 6s from last year will go with Mr. Greenway.
- ◆ Mrs. Armstrong will be back with us for the first week, so students from her class last year will go with her.
- ◆ All new students will meet with Mrs. Laforest who will be by the backstop. She will assign them to a class.
- ◆ Each teacher will be holding a sign with their name on it.
- ◆ Kindergarten students have a gradual entry into their classes and follow the schedule they were provided.

For the remainder of the week, students will be with their teacher from last year. New students will be with the class they are assigned on the first day. The plan is for the students to have some general learning activities to do on Wednesday and Thursday. We hope to be able to get children into their permanent classrooms by Friday but need to wait until the School District gives us the approval to do so. It is possible that we might not be able to get into classes until the start of the week of September 13th. Until then, we ask for your patience and understanding. We know everyone wants to know who their teacher is, but until we get approval, we have to wait.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

You will have already received some information regarding safety measures in place for this year. A few key reminders are:

- ◆ Students in grades 4-7 will be required to wear a face mask while indoors. It is highly recommended students in K-3 wear a mask.
- ◆ Complete a daily health check for your child before sending them to school. This can be done using the provincial [K-12 Health Check app](#) for daily assessment of symptoms.
- ◆ Practice hand hygiene regularly.
- ◆ Practice respecting each others physical space.
- ◆ Coughing/sneezing into their arm.
- ◆ Visitors are now permitted to be in the school, but they must have a pre-arranged appointment. Visitors will need to sign in at the office and must wear a mask at all times.



CLASSROOM PLACEMENTS

As of now we have 10 divisions for the coming school year. Staff will be revisiting our initial placements made at the end of June and be making adjustments to accommodate new students and students that have left Chase River.

Educational Criteria for Assigning Students to Classes

The placement of students is determined by the school team of sending teachers, administration and professional staff and is based on the best educational fit for the student, the class and for the school. Our teachers work together with the Principal, student support teachers and the counselor to put classes together. This is a long process for staff and we appreciate parents for trusting staff and the integrity of the process used to create divisions at Chase River while accommodating new students at the same time. Parents must recognize that their letters of student placement request are considered but may not be granted. A thorough process takes place when considering placing students into classes for the year, the following criteria are followed:

- ◆ Instructional groupings that are best suited to the learning needs of all students.
- ◆ NLPS Inclusion Policies and Procedures
- ◆ Provincial and local Collective Agreement language re: class size and composition
- ◆ Social and cultural issues including student independence, interactions with other students, leadership opportunities
- ◆ Social-emotional and behavioral considerations
- ◆ Physical and social maturation
- ◆ Learning strengths & needs balanced with teaching strategies and styles
- ◆ Social groupings

WATER BOTTLES

Students are encouraged to bring a full water bottle with them each day. We have two working water fountains at the school.



IMPORTANT DOCUMENTATION



IMPORTANT

Parents and guardians will be receiving **four important forms** to sign in the first two/three weeks of school.

Student Verification Form

It is very important to fully complete this double sided verification form and sign on the back. This form is used for contact purposes for parents throughout the year.

Student Information Consent Form

Consent for your student, regarding media releases, walk/run field trips; volunteering in the school and/or volunteer driving. Please complete and sign in all places.

Student Emergency Release

This form lists trusted relatives and friends that parents/guardians permit to pick up their child (ren) from Chase River in the case of an emergency or evacuation.

Consent to the Use of Cloud Technologies

Technology and internet use, Google suite for education and communications from the school.

[Please complete these forms immediately and return them to the school the next day.](#)



EARLY DETECTION - PHONING IN ABSENCES

The early detection system is for the safety of all students at Chase River. A convenient way for parents to report an absence is through email: info.cr@sd68.bc.ca (this email gets forwarded to your child's classroom teacher as well). Please indicate your child's first and last name and their classroom teacher. We also have a 24-hr voice mail so please report students who will be absent or late as early as possible in the morning (or even the night before). This program is for the safety of your child. **All absences and lates should be emailed or called in to the office.** When leaving a message please state your child's name, teacher name, division and if they are ill, at an appointment, or on vacation.



STAFFING UPDATE

We would like to welcome all of our returning staff members and welcome the following people to Chase River:

- Ms. Kendra Van Shaik (Child Youth Family Support Worker)

2021-2022 BELL SCHEDULE

Our bell schedule remains the same as last year, 8:35-2:15 Monday to Friday. A friendly reminder that supervision begins 15 minutes before each morning bell, and ends 15 minutes after the dismissal bells daily. Students should not be left unsupervised by a parent or guardian outside of these times. Students should *not* arrive at school before the official supervision begins for safety reasons unless they have a practice or rehearsal in the morning.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Start	8:35	8:35	8:35	8:35	8:35
Recess	10:15 to 10:30	10:15 to 10:30	10:15 to 10:30	10:15 to 10:30	10:15 to 10:30
Class	10:30 to 11:45	10:30 to 11:45	10:30 to 11:45	10:30 to 11:45	10:30 to 11:45
Lunch	11:45 to 12:20	11:45 to 12:20	11:45 to 12:20	11:45 to 12:20	11:45 to 12:20
Class	12:20 to 2:15	12:20-2:15	12:20 to 2:15	12:20 to 2:15	12:20 to 2:15

TRAFFIC REMINDERS

Please remember there is no parking at any time in the staff parking lot. This is the gravel parking lot that is fenced in front of the Chase River mural on the side of the building. We have staff members arriving at different times and we need to keep this lot available for them. There is parking at the front of the school all along to the end of the field. Please be aware of the bus stop area and never park in that spot please.



SCHOOL WEBSITE

We want to remind families about our school website. It has been updated and we believe you will find it easy to browse and has quite a bit of information. Regularly check out the calendar for the latest updates of what is going on. Our newsletters and other communications are also posted on the site. Check us out at: <https://cr.schools.sd68.bc.ca/>



SCHOOL SUPPLIES



A reminder that the school has purchased school supplies for students. Families will receive information about payment to the school in the near future.

INSIDE SHOES

Please provide inside shoes for your child(ren) to wear inside the school and gym. They should be either white soled or non-marking soles. Inside shoes may be kept inside each student's cubby. We just had our gym floors redone and want it to remain in the best shape as possible.



SEPTEMBER

