



North Saanich Middle School

10400 McDonald Park Road,
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Sept. 8, 2020

Re: Welcome Back to School

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I would like to welcome everybody to a new school year. Many of our staff have been at school for the past couple of weeks working hard to make sure that we are prepared for the return of students. There are many things that will be different about this school year as a result of COVID-19, but the one thing that will remain the same is that our staff is excited to connect with their students and re-engage them in learning. Our goal is to help all students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. We are confident that NSMS will play a positive role in returning children to a small piece of normalcy in their world.

Although the important things like building positive relationships with students will remain the same, the everyday routines and procedures will be significantly different. Our School and District Health and Safety Committees have done an excellent job preparing our facilities and staff for the safe return of students to the building. Please take some time to read the COVID-19 Restart Plan that will be posted to the website in the next few days. It has lots of valuable information in a very readable point form layout. All our students will go through the presentation on Thursday or Friday, and it will answer many questions about North Saanich's new routines. Additionally, the district website has a very informative Q & A section to help you understand what our district and schools are doing to keep students and staff safe.

<https://www.sd63.bc.ca/>

Please also see the attached Daily Health Screening Check. We ask you to ensure this is completed before your child attends school on Thursday or Friday of this week. No need to print it off - just be sure to go through it with your child. Each student will receive two paper copies of this health check on Thursday or Friday. One of the copies has a place to write your child's name and division number on it and this one is to be completed and submitted to the homeroom teacher during the first full week of school, preferably for Monday, September 14, 2020. The other copy is meant to go on the fridge or another location that will remind you to ensure the screening has been completed for your child each day.

Things may have to be changed periodically through the year, but we will do our best to keep you informed. School information can be accessed in several ways. Important and timely

information will be emailed home and updated on our website. Our school website at www.northsaanich.sd63.bc.ca is regularly updated and contains information on upcoming school activities. Many of our teachers have homework pages that include school and classroom information, we have a NSMS twitter account at @SD63NSaanich and our school sign is updated with current information and events. Additionally, you can sign up on our webpage and have all school updates sent to your email and phone.

Your children will meet their teachers and classmates this week. The staff has spent many hours working with our feeder schools to place our students so that each student will be placed in a class that gives them the best opportunity for academic and social success. We do not have the ability to make class placement changes after students have started class on Thursday, September 10, 2020. We will, however, help every child feel welcome and accepted in their classroom.

This year, teachers will be reaching out to you by email, phone, or MS TEAMS, rather than having you come into the school. Our goal is to connect with parents to learn about your child and open the lines of communication between home and school. We believe that understanding your child and developing positive relationships is the key to a successful school year.

In case you missed our August 26, 2020 letter explaining the first week of school, here is the information again on the NSMS Startup:

- Student orientations to review school routines and safety protocols:
Grade 6: Thursday, September 10, 2020 - 9:30-11:00 am
Grade 7: Thursday, September 10, 2020 - 1:15-2:45 pm
Grade 8: Friday, September 11, 2020 - 9:30-11:00 am
- We will meet students near and around the Hawk's Nest (play structure) in front of the school, and we will have staff there to greet you and direct you to our class lists and student gathering zone on the field. For health and safety reasons, the gathering area on the field will be restricted to students and staff.
- First day of full classes is **Monday, September 14, 2020.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the school office.

Sincerely,

Kal Russell
Principal