



**École Nesika Elementary School**  
*School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)*

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## **SEPTEMBER 2020 - What to Expect in the First Week of School**

Thank you to our community for patiently awaiting information from the school. Over the last weeks we have been working diligently on planning and implementing safety measures for this year's school year. Please read September 2020 Return to School COVID-19 Safety Measures, Routines & Procedures for a comprehensive outline of our school plan. This plan will be emailed to parents on our distribution list, posted on the school's website and available in print at the school. If you do not normally receive newsletters through your email and would like a copy, please send a request to [jackie.shaw@sd27.bc.ca](mailto:jackie.shaw@sd27.bc.ca)

This document is very long and takes into consideration many details of our daily routines and expectations (i.e. alternate recess, lunch times, explanation of Learning Groups, enhanced cleaning procedures, protocols for signs and symptoms of illness). If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call.

We are looking forward to working with families and getting children back into school in a manner that is responsive to various needs and helpful in bringing students back in a positive and confident approach. As we bring students back to school there will be some new routines and procedures to establish with our staff, students, and families. Some new routines at our school will be:

- Designated entrance / exit doors per classroom
- Diligent hand washing routines
- Your class will be part of a Learning Group for recess and lunch breaks. Your Learning Group will be comprised of their classroom and one other class in our school (maximum of 60 people including the teacher and education assistants working with this class).
- To limit the number of close in-person contacts, our school grounds will be divided into zones in which one Learning Group will play together at a time. The zone your cohort plays in will alternate weekly.
- To further minimize congestion and maximizes the physical space of our site we have planned for alternate recess and lunch times.
- Your class' primary learning space will be in your classroom and we will plan to support and utilize outdoor learning opportunities whenever possible.
- The classroom and school environment will support the social emotional well-being of our students and generally resemble a normal learning environment. For instance,

*“Learning, Growing, and Belonging Together”*

students in class will minimize physical contact and sharing will be limited, but the in class routines will largely look the same.

- There will be floor markers to help students know where to stand while waiting in line and staff will teach about walking on the far-right side while in hallways.

We believe it is important to allow time for a careful, purposeful, and calm return to school. There is no need to rush. We will be working closely with staff and families to address concerns and ensure a happy and successful return for all our students. Therefore, we will be taking time to welcome students back in a more controlled manner with a focus on helping students to adapt to the changes at school.

For these reasons we are providing for gradual entry in the first week of school to help mitigate the number of students in our school and playground while students orient themselves to new routines. We will be inviting students in:

- English students in grades 1-6 to attend a full day on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>
- French Immersion students in grades 1-6 to attend a full day on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

Nesika Staff will be coming to work on Tuesday and Wednesday of the first week with the goal of becoming familiar with new routines and safety measures, participating in classroom placement meetings and then communicating with parents about information regarding procedures specific to their class. For instance, the door their class will use to enter and exit the building, morning, recess and lunch routines, and any supplies that the children will or will not need to bring with them.

To that end, please expect your child's classroom teacher to be in touch with you BEFORE the day your child is to return to school. If you do not hear from your teacher either by phone or email by the afternoon of Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> please contact the school directly. Starting on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> all students with exception of our Kindergarteners, who are participating in a different gradual entry process, will be in attendance. If the gradual entry plan does NOT work for your family for any reason, please let your classroom teacher know and other accommodations can be made (i.e. childcare complexities, children in the same family with different programs, etc).

Finally, if you are new to our community and need to register for the upcoming school year please visit the school to complete registration forms between 8:30-3pm.

We are looking forward to seeing all our staff and students back to school and excited for the new school year!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Calvin Williams and Mrs. Holly Zurak  
Principal and Vice-Principal,  
École Nesika Elementary