



# SIMONDS ELEMENTARY & U-CONNECT

20190 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Langley B.C. V3A 3L4

Phone: (604) 530-2361 Fax: (604) 530-9671

Principal: Paul Trattle

Vice Principal: Lorrie Burnham

Admin Assistant: Julie McLellan

Educ. Software Systems Coord: Cynthia Dobbs Cox

[ptrattle@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:ptrattle@sd35.bc.ca)

[lburnham@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:lburnham@sd35.bc.ca)

[jmclellan@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:jmclellan@sd35.bc.ca)

[cdobbs@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:cdobbs@sd35.bc.ca)

---

August 28, 2020

## To all our Simonds Families:

We hope you have all had a great summer! As many of you are aware, we have been busy in our building in preparation for our student's return this year. We are excited to be welcoming our students and staff back and want to assure you that our team is working together to implement health and safety practices at our site to make for a successful year. We know that you have many questions about what school will look like in September. We understand that parents and students may have concerns about returning to school during this pandemic. As difficult as this return may be for your family, we hope that you will take some time to read through this document and get a sense of all of the planning that is happening to make this return to school as safe as possible.

**AFTER reading the information, please take a few minutes to complete the survey [HERE](#) by Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>.** It is critical to our planning to know if you will be returning for in class instruction in September. If you do not complete the survey, we will assume you are returning to in-school instruction.

Below are the documents that guided our Restart Plan development:

- [Operational Guidelines for School Districts and Independent School Authorities](#)
- [Langley District Restart Plan](#)
- [Langley District Health and Safety Guidelines](#)
- Or visit the Langley School District Website [here](#)

## Learning Cohorts

A learning cohort is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout a school year and who primarily interact with one another

- Students will be assigned to a classroom as per normal.
  - We will email parents with class placements prior to September 10th
  - We will combine classrooms to create learning cohorts within Ministry Guidelines (maximum of 60 people, including adults)
  - These will be primarily organized by grade level
  - While students will primarily be in their classroom group, there are times they will combine with another class within their learning cohort for learning opportunities
- Students and adults within a learning cohort will attempt as much physical distancing as possible however it is not a requirement within a learning cohort
- Any adults who need to move within different learning cohorts (Support Staff, Resource Teachers, ELL, etc) will be required to physically distance or wear a mask where physical distancing is not possible

- Simonds and U-Connect students will not be mixing in this cohort model at this time and have separate start/end times and separate recess and lunch times.

## **Health and Safety**

A health form will be sent home with your child on the first day of school and will cover the school year. Kindly return this promptly. After returning the form to the school, families must self-monitor each day.

If students have **any symptoms of illness**, you must:

1. Keep your child home
2. Phone the school to let us know your child will be away and reason
3. Keep your child at home until they are symptom free

If your child displays any COVID symptoms, you must:

1. Keep your child home
2. Phone the school to let us know your child will be away
3. Self-Isolate for 14 days or until a clear COVID test

**On the first day of school during our orientation week, a parent or guardian will need to answer the questions in person.**

## **Limited Access to the School – Closed Campus**

- Students will line-up outside their classroom doors when they arrive at school
  - Please remind your child to not interact with students from other learning cohorts
- Students will need to leave the school grounds once dismissed
- In order to maintain the safety of our students and staff, parents are only able to access the school through our front entry.
  - We ask that you try to communicate to staff through phone and email if possible
  - If you need to access the school, please call the office to make an appointment. This includes dropping off any items for students.
- Our playground spaces will be closed to students before and after school to decrease student interaction with other learning cohorts.

Please don't hesitate to call our school office at 604-503-2361 to book an appointment.

## **Playgrounds and Fields**

Playgrounds will be closed before and after school during arrival/dismissal. Playgrounds will be open for students during school hours.

## **Recess and Lunch**

Please have students bring a litter-less lunch and snacks.

## **Handwashing**

One of the most important ways we can protect ourselves from Covid is to ensure good hand washing with soap and water. All of our students will be required to wash their hands upon entering the classroom. Students will be asked to wash their hands:

- Upon coming inside after playing outside, when in common spaces like our gym, before and after eating, when returning from the washroom and at numerous times throughout the day.

## **Our First Week**

This is not a traditional start up as a result of the challenges related to Covid. As has been announced by the Provincial government, we will not be starting with students on September 8<sup>th</sup> as we normally would. As part of our restart plan, this is the calendar of dates we would like you to know:

**September 8 and 9:** Staff in session for orientation and training. Students not at school.

As part of our first week orientation that has been mandated by the Provincial Government, we are inviting Simonds students to come to school on the following orientation days. **Staff will have emailed families with information about which class they will be on September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We will also have lists available if needed.

### **Thursday, September 10:**

Student Orientation: Grade 1 to 5, last name A-L in attendance for the morning. 8:50 to 12:00.

### **Friday, September 11:**

Student Orientation: Grade 1 to 5, last name M-Z in attendance for the morning. 8:50 to 12:00.

### **Monday, September 14:**

- Students Grade 1-5 in session all day
- Kindergarten students start gradual entry. Information has been sent about Kindergarten Gradual Entry in a separate email.

## **Adjusted Bell Schedule**

Across the School District part of the return to school plan involves managing student cohorts. As part of this, schools will need to adjust their bell schedules to be able to ensure appropriate supervision. The start time is the same as last year, but the end time is now 2:36pm. We now also have a 30 minute outdoor time at lunch, followed by a 15 minute lunch which will be supervised by their classroom teacher.

<b>Time (regular day)</b>	<b>Period</b>
8:50 am	Welcome bell
8:55 am	Classes begin
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Recess
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm	Lunch (Outside Play Time)
12:30 pm - 12:45 pm	Lunch (Inside Eating Time)
12:45 pm	Classes resume
2:36 pm	Dismissal

## **Medical Information**

While **medical information** is always gathered on our student registration sheets in the first days of schools, some of our students have serious conditions that we need to be aware of as soon as possible, such as anaphylactic reactions or diabetes. We ask that parents of children with life threatening or serious medical conditions pick up a yellow medical form at the office and complete this as soon as possible. If medications, including rescue medications, need to be left with the school, the forms for these will also be available at the office.

## **Absences at School Start**

The first day at all of our Langley schools is an important time for us to confirm enrolment for the school year. If your child is coming back to Simonds Elementary but unable to attend school during our orientation time, we ask that you inform our office **as soon as possible** at 604-530-2361.

## **Support for Vulnerable Families**

Covid-19 has created some unique challenges for some of our families. Through the generosity of the Langley School District Foundation, community partnerships, and the District, our vulnerable students and families will be well supported. Please contact our school administration for more information.

## **School Supplies**

For Grades 2-5, if you haven't already ordered your school supplies through School Start (<http://www.schoolstart.ca>), please do so as soon as possible as they are to be delivered the first week of school. Select "Simonds Elementary" and then the grade of your child to see the list of required supplies. Kindergarten and Grade One students will pay the school through School Cash online and teachers will purchase supplies.

- Students will use personal supplies such as pens, notebooks and crayons/pencils.
- Students can continue to bring their regular backpacks, lunch kits, water bottles and coats. They are encouraged to have a change of clothes in their backpack as we will be outside every day!
- We encourage students to bring a separate set of inside shoes for grades K-5.

We look forward to a great partnership as we work together to support the learning of Simonds students! Should you have any questions about our restart plan, please call the school (604-530-2361) or email Ms. Burnham ([lburnham@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:lburnham@sd35.bc.ca)) or Mr. Trattle ([ptrattle@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:ptrattle@sd35.bc.ca)).

We are looking forward to an excellent year of learning and growth for our students!

Regards,



Paul Trattle  
Principal  
Simonds & U-Connect