



# SIMONDS ELEMENTARY & U-CONNECT

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## To our U-Connect 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.

- Elementary students will be assigned to a classroom as per normal.
  - We will email parents with class placements prior to September 14th
  - While students will primarily be in their classroom group, there are times they may combine with another class within their learning cohort for learning opportunities
- Secondary students will be assigned to the following cohorts:
  - Grades 8-9 will be a cohort and a grade 10-12 will be a cohort. This will enable us to stay well under the 120-student cohort size. Should a student need to go into another cohort, use of masks may be required.
- 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**

- Elementary 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
- Secondary students will arrive through the front doors of the school.
- 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. Elementary students will eat in their classrooms and Secondary students will eat in designated cohort areas in the Hub and the Space (Room 62).

## **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 school. Elementary 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.

## School Startup Schedule:

### Monday, September 14:

- **U-Connect Secondary Students** attend orientation. More information will be sent out regarding details about this day. For our blended program students:
  - o We will invite our **grade 10-12 students, both new and returning, to join us in the morning of Monday, September 14, from 9:00am to 11:30am** for our regular U-Connect orientation, which will include information sharing around Covid safety.
  - o We will invite our **grade 8-9 students, both new and returning students, to join us in the afternoon of Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 to 3:00pm** for our regular U-Connect orientation, which will include information sharing around Covid safety.
  - o While many high schools will be going to two course model, we have been given permission to keep our traditional semester-based model.
- **U-Connect Elementary Students** and Parent Meetings. We will have a sign up and more information related to these meetings coming out next week. As part of this we will also be doing:
  - o The student's Learning Plan
  - o Term outlines & expectations
  - o MyBluePrint and Teams (overview)
  - o Moodle overview for Gr 5-7

### Tuesday, September 15:

- U-Connect Secondary Students – **Twisted Tuesday** – First full day of school for Secondary Students
  - o All Grade 8-12 blended students will be in attendance from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Students who are morning class only will be attending until 12:15pm.
- U-Connect Elementary Students and Parent Meetings will continue.

### Monday, September 24:

- Both U-Connect Elementary and Secondary Students are in session for a regular day.

### Bell Schedule:

In order to allow for the cohort model to work and to keep as much physical distancing as possible between students at our site, we have adjusted our recess and lunch time in U-Connect to be the same for elementary and secondary. All recess and lunch hour times will be supervised both in and out of the building.

Time (regular day)	Period
9:00 am	Classes begin
10:30 am - 10:45 am	Recess
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	Grade K-7 Lunch (inside)
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Grade K-7 (Outside)
12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	Grade 8-12 Lunch
3:00 pm	Dismissal

## **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 K-7, teachers will be in contact regarding school 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-7.

For Grade 8-12, each teacher will let students know what supplies may be needed for the course.

Students in grades 4 through 12 will be provided a mask should it be requested or needed where physical distancing is not possible.

## **Optional Wednesday Learning**

We do still intend to have our OWL session this year, though they may be a bit different depending on our ability to book presenters or field trips. Ms. Statham will have more information about these opportunities once school has started.

This is the first of several emails that we will be sending over the next days and weeks as we have a lot of information to share with you. This information does not apply to students who are taking courses only online.

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 and U-Connect