

Skwo:wech Re-opens Monday, January 10 at 8:50am

Dear Skwo:wech families,

Welcome back to school everyone. We look forward to reconnecting on Monday! While this has indeed been a challenging time for everyone, we appreciate your care and cooperation while our staff worked diligently this week to prepare for the safe return of our students. Yesterday, you received a summary of key information from our Superintendent. [Please take a few minutes to review Superintendent Hachlaf's message over the weekend.](#) Please see the summary below of site-specific adaptations that we have made to prepare for our students' return.

At Skwo:wech, we have refreshed and updated the strategies that we had developed previously. An important note for families, we will not be returning to staggered start times. Our start times and end times will remain the same. We ask that parents be mindful of spacing at drop off and dismissal times which will provide teachers with ample room to walk their students to their drop off/pickup locations. We encourage families to have only one parent at school to pick up or drop off to reduce density outside. We further encourage families to leave school grounds after picking your child(ren) up and then return at a later, less congested time to enjoy the playground. Please also consider wearing your mask during these busy times. We have noticed that many children lose their masks outside while on the playground. To assist your child with keeping their mask secure, we also suggest if possible, sending your child with a lanyard that they can use to clip their mask to when they go outside. This will help tremendously with the lost masks! Additionally, if possible, please send along an extra mask as they sometimes need to be refreshed during the day.

Additional details:

- All K-12 students, staff and visitors are required to wear a mask in all indoor areas, including at desks.
- Mask exemptions remain in place for those with psychological, behavioural or physical reasons why they cannot tolerate a mask. A new mask exemption request form found here should be completed and sent to school for those requesting or needing the exemption (see attached).
- 3-layer masks will be available at school for anyone who forgets their mask.
- Students will notice that most classrooms have adjusted the seating arrangements to reduce face-to-face seating; some classrooms have additional signage or taping on the floor to assist with smooth movement and lining up in the classroom.
- All assemblies will be held virtually.
- We will continue to hold staggered recess and lunch times. (As noted above, we will not be changing our start time.)
- Hallway movement will continue to be managed and supported with signage and tape on the floor to help children move in the hallways with distancing. Classes will move single file in the hallways.
- We will be closed to visitors unless they are supporting classroom learning or our nutrition/ meal program.
- Enhanced cleaning protocols will continue to be in place.
- We encourage everyone who has not yet done so to explore the attached information about vaccinations which, as noted by the health authority, is one of the most important steps that an individual can take to protect their health against COVID –19. If you are looking for information about vaccines for children, please [click here to view a resource from the Ministry of Health.](#)

We want to extend our deep appreciation to all our families for the care and thoughtfulness with which everyone is supporting our endeavors to continue to keep our school family safe.

Bulletin Updates

Programs of Choice Application Opens Monday, January 17, 2022

- Your child must already be attending a New Westminster School OR be enrolled for the 2022/2023 school year before you apply for a Program of Choice
- [Programs of Choice](#) include: [Montessori](#), [Early French Immersion](#), [Late French Immersion](#), [Home Learners Program](#), and [International Baccalaureate \(IB\) Program](#)
- Mark your calendars with dates of Virtual Parent Information Sessions:
 - French Immersion: Wednesday, January 12 6:30-7:30pm
 - Montessori: Thursday, January 13 6:00-6:45pm
 - Home Learners Program: Thursday, January 13 6:45-7:30pm
- More details included on the last page of this bulletin and/or visit [Discover New Westminster Schools](#)

Kindergarten & New Student Registration for 2022/2023 is Open!

- All registrations are taken by Central Registration at the Welcome Centre at New Westminster Secondary School - *please book a registration appointment online*
- **Last day of the regular registration period is Friday, January 28, 2022**
- Please share this information with new families in the neighbourhood!
- For more details, including required documents and the calendar to book a registration appointment, please visit: <https://newwestschools.ca/our-schools/registration/registration-information-forms/>
- More details included on the last page of this bulletin

Transfer (Out-of-Catchment) and Out-of-District Applications Open Monday, February 7, 2022

- Families of students who live outside of New Westminster, or who live in New Westminster but outside of the catchment of a school they wish to attend, must submit an online application form
- Please note, your child must be registered in their catchment school prior to submitting an Out-of-Catchment application; more details included on the last page of this bulletin

Discover New Westminster Schools Week: January 10-14

- January 10th – 14th, 2022 will be Discover New Westminster Schools Week!
- Over the course of the week parents, caregivers and students will have the opportunity to log into a series of online sessions that will allow our community to learn about different programs offered through district and schools. Each of the sessions will include time for our staff to provide high-level understanding of the programs, information on how to apply or take advantage of the options available, and then opportunities for those “attending” to have their questions answered (through the chat feature in Teams).
- We will offer Course Programming sessions for students going into Grades 9-12 in September 2022, a French Immersion Information session, a Montessori Information session, information about Trades and Apprenticeship Programs at NWSS, as well as information about our International Baccalaureate Program for Grades 11 and 12.
- For dates, times and Teams log in information, please go to our website at: <https://newwestschools.ca/discover-new-westminster-schools/>



MASK EXEMPTION REQUEST

January 5, 2022

One of the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect all students and staff is to wear a mask. Research shows that masks not only protect the wearer but also those around them by reducing the risk of transmitting COVID-19. There are no known risks or harms caused by wearing a mask.

All K to 12 students, staff and visitors are **required by public health order** to wear masks in all indoor areas of schools, including while seated at their desks. The order states:

“ All K-12 students, staff and visitors are required to wear masks in all indoor areas, including

- ***At desks***
- ***On school busses”***

(January 2022)

There are exceptions, and those are specified in the order. The exceptions include circumstance where the child is eating or drinking, playing a wind instrument, or engaging in a high-intensity activity, or needs to remove their mask to be identified. School staff will monitor these occasions and manage accordingly.

In addition, there are exemptions where a child will not be required to wear a mask beyond these specific activities. We understand your child may qualify for.

To exempt your child more generally from the mask requirement, please signify under which public health category your child qualifies.

Request for Exemption from Mask Order for K-12 Student

I request that my child be exempt from Mask Order due to the fact that they are unable to wear a mask because of:

- a psychological, behavioural, health condition or mental impairment
- a physical impairment and cannot put on mask without assistance (assistance can be provided)

We will be in touch with you to discuss other measures that may be appropriate in your child’s particular circumstance.

School: _____

Student: _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Signature _____

Date _____

REGISTRATION INFORMATION/KEY DATES FOR THE 2022/23 SCHOOL YEAR

In-Catchment

Registrations will be taken at the Welcome Centre located at the new NWSS starting **November 1, 2021**. All students wanting to register for the current year or students wanting to register for the 2022/23 school year must book an appointment using the [Online Booking Calendar](#) located on the [District Website](#). Due to Covid-19 protocols, drop-in registrations will not be permitted. Information regarding the school registration process, along with a downloadable [Registration Form](#) and the [Document Guide for Parents & Caregivers](#) is available on the [District Website](#).

Dates: Monday, Nov. 1, 2021 – Friday, Jan. 28, 2022

Registrations received by January 28th be accommodated at the catchment school unless the school has been deemed at full capacity by the Superintendent. Schools deemed at full capacity may have limited space in certain grades and placement cannot be guaranteed.

Transfer (Out-of-Catchment) Applications

Students who live in-district who wish to apply to attend a school out-of-catchment for the 2022/23 school year must first register for their catchment school at the Welcome Centre and submit an online Transfer Request Form which will be available on the [District Website](#) on February 7, 2022. Schools deemed at full capacity by the Superintendent will be “closed” for transfer requests.

Dates: Monday, February 7th – Friday, February 25th

Applications will be accepted after February 25th but will be placed on a waitlist after all of those applications received within the application window.

Out-of-District Applications

Students who live out-of-district who wish to apply to attend school in New Westminster for the 2022/23 school year must submit an online Out-of-District Application Form which will be available on the [District Website](#) on February 7, 2022. Applicants who are accepted will be required to register at the Welcome Centre upon acceptance. Schools deemed at full capacity by the Superintendent will be “closed” for out-of-district applications.

Dates: Monday, February 7th – Friday, February 25th

Applications will be accepted after February 25th but will be placed on a waitlist after all of those applications received within the application window.

Note: Transfer and Out-of-District decisions will not be finalized prior to Friday, June 10, 2022. All decisions will be communicated to applicants prior to the end of June, 2022.

Programs of Choice

Intake ages for Programs of Choice are as follows:

- Early French Immersion - Kindergarten and Grade 1
- Montessori Program - Kindergarten and Grade 1
- Late French Immersion - Grade 6

Students who are new to the district in grades other than those listed above are able to apply for a Program of Choice provided they have attended in the same program in their previous school out-of-district.

Schools which offer Programs of Choice are as follows:

- Early French Immersion - École Herbert Spencer
- École Qayqayt
- École Lord Tweedsmuir
- Late French Immersion - École Glenbrook Middle
- French Immersion - NWSS
- Montessori - Skwo:wech
- Connaught Heights
- Home Learner’s Program - Hume Park

Students wishing to apply for a Program of Choice for the 2022/23 school year must first register for their catchment school with the Welcome Centre and submit either an Early French Immersion Application Form, a Late French Immersion Application Form or a Montessori Application Form which will be available on the [District Website](#) on Monday, January 17th.

Dates: Monday, January 17th – Friday, February 11th

*“Applicants who miss the February 11th deadline must email programsofchoice@sd40.bc.ca to submit an application. All applications submitted after February 11th will be placed on a waitlist following those who applied within the application window.**

All Program of Choice decisions will be communicated to applicants by end of day on March 4th.

More information on Programs of Choice can be found on the [District Website](#). Questions can be sent to programsofchoice@sd40.bc.ca.

Parent Information Sessions

Due to Covid-19 protocols, all parent information sessions will be done using Microsoft Teams. Microsoft Teams links for each will be shared closer to the date of each session:

- French Immersion - Jan. 12th (6:30 – 7:30 pm)
- Montessori - Jan. 13th (6:00 – 6:45 pm)
- Home Learners Program - Jan. 13th (6:45 – 7:30 pm)