

POUCE COUPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

P.O. Box 7

POUCE COUPE, B.C. V0C 2C0

PHONE: (250)786-5314

PRINCIPAL: AMANDA BRICKER

Mission: To enable personal growth through knowledge and teamwork.

Dear Pouce Coupe Families,

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope that all of our families enjoyed a fun and relaxing summer. I know that the news around back to school may have left you with questions. I want to share an overview of what school will look like at Pouce, and I hope this helps answer some of those questions.

Public Health guidelines have required elementary schools to maintain learning cohorts of no more than 60. The cohorts include both students and teachers and other staff members regularly associated with the cohort. While most of the school day students will be in their own classrooms, classes from the same learning group may interact from time to time as long as we include good management around physical distancing and hand washing. Students will still be able to enjoy breaks outside and share in activities with the other class in their learning cohort. Teachers will be implementing good classroom management strategies to reduce crowding in common areas. Classroom routines will be in place to ensure regular handwashing occurs, and physical space is given for individuals in student work areas.

Lunch and recess breaks will be staggered to limit the number of learning groups on the playground at any given time. The playground will be divided up during recess and lunches to allow different learning groups access to parts of the playground. Each learning group will have to stay in their area during recess and lunch breaks. Students will be asked to wash their hands after using any playground equipment.

Cohorts are arranged by grade groups:

- Group 1 – Kindergarten (Mr. Lam) and Grade 1/2 (Mrs. Schlauwitz)
- Group 2 – Grade 2/3 (Ms. Brokenshire) and Grade 3/4 (Mrs. Sherk)
- Group 3 – Grade 4/5/6 (Ms. Holland) and Grade 6/7 (Ms. Macrae)

- Groups 1 and 3 will have recess 10:20-10:35 and lunch break 11:50-12:20
- Group 1 will have access to the playground and swings to the right of the lamppost
- Group 3 will have access to the swings to the left of the lamppost and the playing courts.
- Group 2 will have recess 10:05-10:20 and lunch break 11:20-11:50.
- All groups will eat their lunches in their classrooms after their outside break (Ms. Macrae's class will eat before going outside). Teachers will supervise their own classes. Students will wash their hands before eating.

Washrooms will be assigned as follows: Mrs. Schlauwitz's grade 1/2s will use the Kindergarten washroom (along with kindergarten students). The main student washrooms

will be used by groups 2 and 3. We will continue to use the cone system (place cone in doorway when you enter, remove when you are done, don't enter if there is a cone in the doorway). Students will know that staff members may direct 2 students in the same group to use the washroom at the same time (staff overrides the cone system). The library washroom is for adults only.

At this time, masks will **not** be mandatory for students at our school. Masks are optional at the discretion of parents. High school students will be required to wear masks on the bus, but not elementary students. Individuals outside of our cohort may be required to wear a mask, if they cannot maintain physical distancing. Staff members not associated with one cohort will wear a mask while interacting with students. To limit interactions, the office will be off-limits for students. They must wait at the window or door if they need something unless accompanied by a staff member.

Bus students will continue to arrive at the school as scheduled by the bus garage. Other students are asked not to arrive before 8:10. Students will enter at their designated entrance, wash their hands, and proceed to the designated room for their learning group before school. For those wishing to participate in Breakfast Club, breakfast will be served to each learning cohort at 8:15. The warning bell will ring at 8:24, with classes commencing at 8:29.

To limit the number of people coming and leaving the building, parents will not be permitted into the building in the morning or afterschool. If parents require access to the building, please call the office to make arrangements. Students not riding the bus can be picked up after school at 2:09, with the exception of Mrs. Schlauwitz's class being dismissed at 2:04. **We need your help with checking your child every morning to make sure they are feeling well.** Parents are asked to assess their child for any symptoms of COVID-19 prior to arriving at the school. If they are not feeling well, they need to stay home. If your child has a preexisting condition that causes them to exhibit flu like symptoms from time to time (for examples allergies) please make sure you notify myself and/or your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year.

If your child suddenly develops illness at school, we will contact you immediately and arrange for pickup of your child. Sick children will be required to wait for their parents in an isolated spot. Any medical support that your child needs will be at your discretion.

The first day of school for students will be a half day on September 10th, this day will have a 2-hour delayed start and 1-hour early dismissal (10:29am to 1:09pm) September 11th will be the first full day for students (8:29am to 2:09pm). Kindergarten students will be slightly different, and Mr. Lam will be contacting those parents to book appointments for students to come in with their parents on the 10th. The kindergarten class will be divided in three, with one third coming on each day- September 11th, September 14th, and September 15th. All kindergartens will start full days on Wednesday, September 16th.

Over the next week I will be confirming our class lists for the year. **Please let me know if your child will be returning in September, or if you have moved over the**

summer. Starting August 31st, the school will be open from 8am to 3pm, please remember to call ahead and book an appointment if you need to come in.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding,

Sincerely,

Amanda Bricker