



# Dewdney Elementary School

37151 Hawkins-Pickle Rd, B107, Dewdney, BC V0M 1H0

Phone: 604-826-2516 Fax: 604-820-8063

Website: <http://dewdney.mpsd.ca>

Principal: Isabella Lam Email: [isabella.lam@mpsd.ca](mailto:isabella.lam@mpsd.ca)

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Dear Dewdney Families,

Welcome Back to School for the 2022-2023 school year! We are eager and excited to welcome students back for another school year. Thank you for your patience with information regarding the first week of school. Here is the outline for the first week of school:

## **All New and Returning Students (Grades 1 to 6):**

### **Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Half Day Instruction 8:20-10:50 am; please bring a recess snack**

All returning students will go to their classrooms that they were in the year before with their last year's classroom teacher for drop off and pick up. If your teacher is no longer at the school, please still go to the classroom you were in last year, and another staff member will greet you.

Please note that if your child was in Ms. Lambert's or Ms. Masterson's class, we are asking students to be dropped off/picked up at the exterior Library doors by the basketball courts. We will have signs posted.

All new students will meet at the **Gym** (next to the main office). Please enter through our front doors, and the Gym will be on your right. All students will be **dismissed at 10:50 am** from these classrooms. On the first day of school, students should **bring only their pencil** box (with a pencil and pencil crayons) and not all their school supplies. Thank you. 😊

### **Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – Full Day Instruction Begins 8:20am-2:13 pm**

Students will go back to these classes and parents will drop them off at their last year's classroom doors. Depending on new registrations, students will go to their "new" classroom and meet their teacher and new classmates on Wednesday. We hope to do this movement on Wednesday, however; if enrollment shifts significantly on the first few days back, the change of classes may happen on Thursday. This avoids students being placed in a class and then getting removed to another class. At the end of the day on Wednesday, students will proceed to their last year's classrooms for pick-up. Therefore, drop off and pick up are at their last year's classroom or for new students outside the front doors (students will be dismissed from the Gym).

Please note that class lists will **not** be posted prior (on the first couple of days). The posting of class lists earlier causes both students and their care givers anxiety and nervousness. I would like students to start the year without the worry of finding their name on a list. Once students are in their class, they quickly feel comfortable and begin to make new friends and talk to old friends. In the first couple of days of school, class numbers can still change with people moving in and out of our catchment. Although, as a school, we try and keep up to date, there is always changes in students and therefore changes in classes.

### **Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

Students are asked to bring their school supplies and head to their "new" classroom, unless told otherwise by their classroom teacher. If your child has forgotten where their "new" classroom is, class lists will be posted on the windows of the office entrance as a reminder.

## **Incoming K Students**

Please continue to follow the Kindergarten Gradual Entry Schedule, as sent out in July. A reminder that our *Welcome to Kindergarten* event will take place on **Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-9:30 am**. If there is any new information or update before the end of the week, we will keep you informed.

There have been a few families moving over the summer, both out of the area and into the area, therefore we need to readjust our school configuration. A lot of thought, consideration and time by all school staff go into the creation of classrooms and we want to ensure the best learning environment for each child. All classes are multi-ability classes with children working at various levels. If you would like to meet with me about your child's placement, please make an appointment **after the first school week**.

If you have moved in or out of the area, or there are any changes to your attendance at Dewdney, please contact the office to let us know they are accounted for. It is very important that if your child is unable to attend school on Tuesday September 6<sup>th</sup>, that you contact the office to let us know. Thank you for your support.

Secretary: Tanya Anderson    Email: [tanya.anderson@mpsd.ca](mailto:tanya.anderson@mpsd.ca)

### **Health and Safety**

Families are asked to continue to do Health Checks before coming to school:

- Regular check-in for symptoms of illness before attending school that could limit their ability to participate fully in school activities (including but not limited to COVID-19 symptoms)

If you do test positive for COVID:

Staff, children, or other persons in the school setting who test positive for COVID-19 should follow the guidance on the BCCDC website as to how long they should self-isolate. Students can return to school when they no longer need to self-isolate or show symptoms that could hinder their ability to participate in regular school activities. Schools do not require a health care provider note (e.g., a doctor's note) to confirm the health status of any individual beyond those required to support medical accommodation as per usual practice.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation>

### **Construction Update**

Please note that there will be scaffolding along the North side of our school building, along with red fencing. Most of our exterior doors are still accessible. Please use caution when entering the front doors, as there will be less accessibility. All parking spots will still be available. We are hopeful that all construction work will be completed by the end of September. We will continue to keep you posted.

### **Bell Schedule:**

Warning bell: 8:15am  
Classes begin: 8:20am  
Recess: 9:50 to 10:05 am  
Lunch: 11:35 to 12:20 pm  
End of Day: 2:13pm

### **School Supply Lists:**

**Available on the school website, or you may click here:** [School Supply Lists](#)

We are incredibly excited to continue our learning journey with all of our wonderful students next week. Please enjoy the upcoming long weekend, and we will see you on September 6<sup>th</sup>!

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions: [isabella.lam@mpsd.ca](mailto:isabella.lam@mpsd.ca)

Sincerely,

**Isabella Lam, Principal of Dewdney Elementary School**