

Porter Creek Secondary

1405 Hickory Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 4M4 Phone: 1-867-667-8044 Fax: 1-867-667-8953
Principal: Mr. Peter Giangrande Website: www.pcssrams.ca Email: pcss@gov.yk.ca

August 19, 2020

Dear Porter Creek Secondary students and families:

Our Operational Plan was posted on August 12, 2020 on the front page of pcssrams.ca

As the first day of school is tomorrow, I wanted to share some more aspects of the return to school plans.

- We recognize anxiety related to new ways of doing things. Please know that our staff have been trained on health and safety procedures and prepared their classrooms and are ready to go over these new routines and structures with students in the first days and weeks of school.
- Please let us know early on if your child is struggling academically, socio-emotionally or with their mental health. We are here to help and support, and can refer you to resources to assist children and families.

Non-medical Masks

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that masks are recommended everywhere students can't physically distance. This includes school buses and city buses. At Porter Creek Secondary, we will be asking for students to wear non-medical masks in the hallways and in some classrooms (e.g., Wood shop, Esthetics). Students and staff may wear masks and/or face shields in classes should they choose but they are not required where physical spacing can be maintained (in many classrooms).

We will be receiving re-usable masks for students and staff in mid-September. In the meantime, you may purchase one or more reusable masks for your child and the school will have disposable masks on hand upon student request.

Bussing

The bus schedule for secondary schools has been posted on the Yukon.ca website. There is a "mid-day run" for students who need it. However, as the schedule stands, there is a long waiting period for those who leave or come to school on the mid-day run. Students from the AM group who are waiting to leave on busses will now be asked to work quietly in their period 2 classroom until their bus arrives. Students in the afternoon group that arrive by mid-day bus will proceed to their Period 3 classroom to work quietly until class begins. It is necessary for students to respect this requirement as we must keep the hallways clear - congregation or clustering in hallways is not permitted. If the bus schedule is revised, we'll update you.

Blended Learning

- Our Grade 10-12 courses will be taught through a blended learning approach this year.
- This model is not the same as the online teaching that students experienced at the end of the 19-20 school year.
- We support this model and believe it is the best way to start this school year because:
 - Starting the school year with both face-to-face and online leaves us in the best position to change back to full time face-to-face or fully online, depending what happens with COVID-19 in Yukon.
 - Blended learning is a proven approach to providing students maximum flexibility. It is an approach that our staff has had much preparation for implementing and it is very well supported by the Department of Education
 - Blended learning is a model that is used by Universities and in workplaces, and, in this way, we are preparing students with the skills and competencies needed after high school. We will monitor, support, and coach our Grade 10-12 students in developing work habits and routines that will help them to be successful in post-secondary studies and in work.
- We look forward to your positive and optimistic support of your children in this new way of doing things. As a collective – teachers, staff, parents/guardians, relatives, and friends – will form the community that communicates and works together to help make this a successful school year.

School Schedule

- Grade 8 and 9s will use our traditional Monday to Friday, 4 periods per day, schedule
 - For Grade 8/9 lunch will be eaten in their classrooms, and then they will be asked to go outside for fresh air for the second part of lunch. This will continue at least through October, so please plan to dress accordingly. Outdoor environments are healthy for development and allow for less risk of COVID transmission.
- The Grade 10-12 bell schedule is:

	Day 1	Day 2
8:40 – 9:50	Cohort 1, Period 1 Class	Cohort 1, Period 3 Class
9:50 - 9:55	Transition	Transition
9:55 – 11:05	Cohort 1, Period 2 Class	Cohort 1, Period 4 Class
11:05 – 12:45	Lunch (Cohort 1 leaves by 11:10, Cohort 2 arrives by 12:45)	
12:45 – 1:55	Cohort 2, Period 1 Class	Cohort 2, Period 3 Class
1:55 – 2:00	Transition	Transition
2:00 – 3:10	Cohort 2, Period 2 Class	Cohort 2, Period 4 Class

Students Cohort assignment is based on last name:

- A-K last names will be Cohort 1
- L-Z last names will be Cohort 2
- This flips for Semester 2.
- It is not possible to switch shifts, except under very limited circumstances.

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Student Timetables

- Student schedules will be provided to Grade 8s during their orientation today and to Grade 9 to 12s on the 20th when they arrive for their classes (Grade 9 in AM; Grade 10-12 AM or PM depending on cohort).

Attachments

- The full year Day 1/Day 2 schedule is attached for your reference.
- When to keep children home this school year.

We are very much looking forward to tomorrow, and to seeing our students again. As always, please feel free to reply to this email with any of your questions or concerns or send them to pcss@gov.yk.ca or call the school at 667-8044.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Giangrande". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Peter Giangrande, Principal