

Porter Creek Secondary

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August 28, 2020

Dear Porter Creek Secondary students and families:

As our first full week comes to an end, I wanted to provide you with an update. Considering all the changes and new routines, we've had a remarkably smooth beginning to the new school year. Thank you to our parents and guardians for understanding that operating during a pandemic means many changes from "school as usual", for helping us reinforce new routines and for keeping your child at home when they have any symptoms of illness.

Students and staff alike are excited to be back and understand that we have collective work to do to learn and follow new guidelines and recommendations. At the same time, visitors to the school have remarked on the calm atmosphere within the school and the ease with which our students have incorporated new routines.

Please continue to let us know 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.

Grade 8-9 Lunch Time and Routines:

- Our Grade 8-9 students have a 45-minute lunch time with 20 minutes in their class and 25 minutes outside. Please continue to send a healthy lunch and snacks. Lunch items such as sandwiches and cookies will be available from a cafeteria cart starting September 8th. Please also note that there are no vending machines for snacks or drinks this school year.
- Please plan with your child for the outdoor time with appropriate clothing, raingear and/or umbrella, and toque and gloves/mitts as it gets chillier. We will be continuing with this plan at least through October.
- Bringing a water bottle to school is highly recommended as our water bottle filling stations are still running, but our drinking fountains are shut off

Grade 10-12 Mid-Day Bussing and Routines:

- For those students taking the mid-day bus, there is a long waiting period (up to one hour) for those who leave or come to school on that mid-day bus run.
 - Students from the AM group who are waiting to leave on busses have three options:
 - work quietly in their period 2 classroom until their bus arrives,
 - go to Room 202, our learning support room for grades 10-12,
 - or go outside to wait for the bus.
 - Students in the afternoon group that arrive by mid-day bus have three options:
 - proceed to their Period 3 classroom to work quietly until class begins.
 - go to Room 202, our learning support room for grades 10-12,
 - stay outside to wait for the 10-12 bell.
 - 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 will revise this plan.
- Bring a water bottle to school is highly recommended as our water bottle filling stations are still running, but our drinking fountains are shut off.

Non-medical Masks

Non-medical masks are an added layer of safety for students and staff and are recommended by the Chief Medical Officer everywhere that students can't physically distance (including hallways of our school, school buses and city buses). 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 has disposable masks on hand upon student request.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support. 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,

Peter Giangrande, Principal