

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

Dear Porter Creek Secondary students and families:

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

In the meantime, I wanted to share some aspects of the return to school plans.

In Whitehorse, Kindergarten through Grade 9 students will return to school for full days, every day and Grades 10 through 12 will attend half days, every day and continue to learn from home during the other half of the day.

These changes will allow us to maximize physical distancing and minimize the “mixing” of students within the school as these are the best practices with regard to public health and safety.

This will look and feel very different from what we are used to and we appreciate the support of students and families as we work to implement these changes and as we work to ensure the health, safety, and learning of our students as our top priorities.

All students:

- Will be required to maintain 2m separation from other students as much as possible (although this distance can be reduced if they are not face-to-face). Classroom desks will be arranged in a manner to minimize face-to-face orientation of students, as this will allow for sitting closer than 2m apart.
- Will only engage in group activities (in and out of class) if physical distancing can be maintained
- Will be encouraged to spend the least amount of time in the building as necessary
- Will have access to a supervised on-site “learning support” when they are not in class if they cannot return home or learn effectively at their homes
- Will be required to use hand sanitizer upon entry to the school and entry and exit of any classroom
- Will be required to engage in some sanitization activities (e.g., wiping down desks and technology, etc.) within classrooms
- Will not be able to attend school if exhibiting any symptoms of illness
- Will be encouraged to have access to a digital device to engage in online learning
- Will be able to purchase snack foods from a limited cafeteria menu, but may need to eat in another location

Wood Street Programs to be located at PCSS in 20-21

- As announced by the Minister of Education, some Wood Street programs will be located at PCSS for the 2020-2021 school year. Those programs are as follows: CHAOS (Community, Heritage, Adventure, Outdoors, Skills), ACES (Achievement, Challenge, Environment, Stewardship) and FACES (French ACES), Experiential Science 11, and Music Arts Drama (MAD) These programs will be enclaved in the original school building and the portable outbuildings located at the rear of the school. There will be very limited interaction with our students as these programs are mostly self-contained. Any questions about Wood Street programs should be directed to the teacher in charge or to Mr. Darren Hays, Principal at darren.hays@gov.yk.ca

Planning

- The [Guidelines for K-12 School Settings](#) were released on July 23 and we are using those to continue planning for the 2020-2021 school year.
- The three large Whitehorse secondary schools (FH Collins, Porter Creek, and Vanier) are working closely to ensure that the three schools operate similarly to each other.
- We are developing our finalized Health and Safety Operational Plan which will be shared on August 12 on pccsrams.ca

School Calendar

- A Professional Development (PD) Day has been moved from October 1 to August 19 to give schools an extra day to prepare, therefore **the first day of school for all students will now be Thursday, August 20.**
- Our Grade 8 orientation will move from Tuesday, August 18 to **Wednesday, August 19 from 1:00 until 2:15 pm.**

School Schedule

- Grade 8 and 9s will use our traditional Monday to Friday, 4 periods per day, schedule

Grade 8-9	Time
Period 1	8:40 - 9:59
Transition	9:59 - 10:04
Break in P2 class	10:04 – 10:11
Period 2	10:11 – 11:30
Lunch	11:30 – 12:15
Period 3	12:15 – 1:35
Transition	1:35 – 1:40
Break in P4 class	1:40 – 1:46
Period 4	1:46 – 3:04

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- The Grade 10-12 bell schedule is anticipated to be (subject to change):

	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

- A year-long calendar specifying which days are Day 1s and Day 2s will be available before the school year starts.
- Teachers will use a blended learning model facilitated using Google classroom, Microsoft Teams, Moodle, or their website to facilitate additional learning time when students are not in classrooms.
- Students' cohort assignment will be based on surname (last name):
 - Surnames starting with A through K will be Cohort 1
 - Surnames starting with L through Z will be Cohort 2
 - This will flip at the semester break in January 2021. (i.e., Cohort 2 will attend school in the mornings and Cohort 1 will attend in the afternoons, for equity reasons).
 - It is not possible to switch Cohorts, except under very limited circumstances (e.g., blended families where students have different surnames will be able to have all students in one Cohort).
- When students are not in classrooms, it is expected they are working on course work – please avoid scheduling work or other obligations during these times. This way students can collaborate outside of classroom time.
- A supervised on-site learning support block will be available for students if they cannot return home or learn effectively at their homes. The expectation will be that the student is working on school work throughout their time in the learning support block. It will have digital devices for students to access. More information on this will come in a future email.

Special Programs

Students in our HOPE (Hands on Purposeful Learning) Life Skills Program, and our ABEL (Academic Bridging and Experiential Learning) program will attend school all day, each day.

Student Timetables

- We are working on creating student timetables this week. They will be provided to Grade 8s during their orientation 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).
- Please note that our student information system (based in British Columbia where school doesn't start until after Labour Day) goes off-line for summer maintenance from August 8 until August 17th. We do not have access to the system during this time and will not be able to make any schedule changes until after it re-opens on the 18th.
- Counsellors will be available for schedule consultation on Tuesday, August 18 and Wednesday, August 19.

School Supplies and Lockers

- School supply lists were sent in a physical mailing.
- **Students will not be issued lockers this year.**
- All students should be able to store all their materials in a backpack with room for textbooks and/or workbooks.

In the meantime, 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