

NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92
School Specific Operational Procedures for Restart



Alvin A. McKay Elementary School

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE TO STAFF AND PARENTS

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we have worked to figure out how to plan a new school year. As of September schools will again be providing in-class learning. In-class learning will be offered on a schedule determined by your child's teacher. We will let families know as soon as possible what days their child(ren) will attend. We are also working to support the care needs for our Essential Service Workers; if you haven't already been contacted by the school, please connect with the secretary.

The following information will help answer many questions regarding what a return to school will look like and as always, please reach out with additional questions. We care about you and are working to put processes in place to ensure the safety of everyone as well as provide a rich and engaging school experience. As we work through this process with you, we will adjust our planning as needed in order to best meet our students' needs. We have missed you and look forward to having you back at school!

LEARNING GROUPS/COHORTS

Every student will be assigned to a learning group. A learning group is a group of students and staff who:

- remain together throughout a school term and,
- primarily interact with each other.

Students are expected to limit physical contact, keep their hands to themselves, and as much as possible, stay within their own learning bubble.

PARENT VISITS TO SCHOOL

Entry to the school is limited to students and staff. All community, parent and student appointments will be booked with Alison via email (astewart@nisgaa.bc.ca) or phone call (250-621-3277). Upon entering the school, all visitors are asked to sign in and to check-in with the office.

DAILY SCREENING FOR ILLNESS

Parents are asked to monitor their children's wellness daily and not to send them to school if they are sick. Please read and sign the Daily Health Check Agreement (at the end of the school registration form) to confirm that you understand the process for screening your child prior to sending them to school. *Anyone who is sick is not allowed to be in the school.* If your child has any symptoms, call 8-1-1.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Students will arrive at school between 8:30 and 8:45 am. Entry and exit will be by staggered through the following assigned doorways.

- K/1 students will use the K/1 doors and wash their hands at the classroom sink.
- Grades 2/3 and 4/5 will enter through the main office doors and wash their hands using the sinks in the girls' and boys' washrooms.
- Grades 6/7 will line up by the main doors until signaled then enter via the fire door by the grade 6/7 classroom. They will wash their hands at the classroom sink.

A staff member will greet your child and monitor entry and exit procedures. Students will bring backpacks to their personal learning space (desk). Staff will instruct children on proper handwashing procedures. After proper hand hygiene is complete, your child will return to his/her personal learning space.

At the end of their in-class learning time, children will be dismissed from the same door they use for entry, after thoroughly washing their hands at their classroom sinks.

HALLWAY TRAFFIC

It is expected that everyone will stay right when walking in hallways. Signage will be in place to remind everyone about directional flow of movement.

HAND HYGIENE

Students will be asked to wash their hands frequently, including upon entering the school. Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is expected, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. Washing hands with soap and water is the preferable method, wherever possible. Classrooms at AAMES have at least one sink with a soap dispenser and paper towel and students will primarily use their classroom sink for hand washing as these stations are easily supervised. Students will use washroom sinks as appropriate. Hand sanitizer will be available when sinks are not. Hand hygiene visuals are posted at all sinks. Staff will have hand sanitizer outside during recess and outdoor learning times in order to further support hand hygiene.

RESPIRATORY (COUGHING & SNEEZING) ETIQUETTE

Anyone who needs to cough or sneeze will use their elbow or a tissue, and then throw out the tissue (if used) and wash their hands afterwards. Students are to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth and avoid close contact with anyone who is sick.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Physical distancing is expected for students in grades 6-7. K-5 students are expected to refrain from physical contact with each other, including on playgrounds. Learning activities will be planned with these guidelines in mind.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Non-medical masks are required in situations where older students and staff cannot maintain physical distance and are in close proximity to a person outside of their learning group or household.

Non-medical masks are not recommended for elementary students due to the increased likelihood they will touch their face and eyes, as well as require assistance to properly put on and take off their mask (requiring increased close personal contact from school staff). *No student needs to wear a non-medical mask if they do not tolerate it.*

STUDENT BELONGINGS

Student belongings must be labelled, and each student's school supplies and snacks must be transported back and forth from school in a backpack. Students could bring a **filled**, labelled water bottle to drink from. The school fountains will not be available. Students will not have access to lockers. Students will keep "outside shoes" on and will keep their backpack with them at their desk or table. Students will not use coat rooms or lockers.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Students are not to share food, drink, or personal items with others.

SCHOOL CLEANING

Schools will be cleaned more frequently, before and after each learning group uses their learning space. Washrooms and high touch points (door knobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks, chairs, electronic devices, and keyboards) will be cleaned regularly (at least every 3 hours), as will any surface that is visibly dirty. More general cleaning and disinfecting will occur at least once a day.

STAGGERING OF RECESS & TRANSITIONS

Your child's teacher will determine appropriate recess and other break times in order to avoid over-crowding our field and playground.

STUDENT SPACING IN CLASSROOMS & FOR ALL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Teachers and support staff have set up classrooms so that each student has his/her own learning space. Students are expected to stay within their assigned learning space. Teachers will remove or limit the use of frequently touched items that are not easily cleaned, such as fabric or soft items. Teachers will limit the use of shared equipment, as much as is practical to do so.

PROTOCOLS IF A STUDENT BECOMES ILL

If a student develops symptoms at school, they will be isolated from others in a supervised area, and families will be called to pick them up immediately. The protocol that will be followed will align with the Public Health Guidelines for K-12 School Settings.

Our school plan is aligned with the Nisga'a School District COVID-19 Response plan which is informed by current WorkSafe BC protocols, BC Centre for Disease Control Guidance for K-12 School Settings, and Ministry of Education Guideline for K-12 Schools. Links to these documents are provided here:

[https://www.nisgaa.bc.ca/source/S-D-%2092%20\(NISGAA\)%20COVID-19%20Response%20Plan%20Aug24.pdf](https://www.nisgaa.bc.ca/source/S-D-%2092%20(NISGAA)%20COVID-19%20Response%20Plan%20Aug24.pdf)

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/education>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf>

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf

Thank you to all of our parents/guardians for their energy and efforts to help make the 2020-2021 school year a successful one for all students. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the principal, the secretary or your child's teacher by phone or email.

Respectfully,

Martha Swinn (principal)
mswinn@nisgaa.bc.ca; 250-621-3277