

## NOTRE DAME REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

2880 Venables Street  
Vancouver, BC V5K 4Z6  
Phone (604) 255-5454  
Fax (604) 255-2115  
www.ndrs.ca



Principal: Rog r DesLauriers  
Vice Principal: Dennis Pavan  
Vice Principal: Jonathan Tagulao

Dear Parents,

Further to my previous email please note important "Return to School" information for the upcoming school year. Included in this document are associated links to the **Notre Dame Safety Protocols, The BC Back to School Plan,** and a **letter from Deacon Henk Luyten, Superintendent of the CISVA.**

All parents are reminded that aspects of the Return to School and Safety Protocols are subject to change prior to September 8 and throughout the school year. Mandates from the Ministry of Health and Education and the development of Covid 19 would largely influence the necessity of such changes.

In the most recent ministry "Back to School Plan", it states:

***"Secondary school students will continue to be organized in courses. School timetables will be organized to limit students to learning groups of no more than 120 students and staff.***

***Schools will analyze student enrolment and course selection to identify "natural learning groups," students who are taking the same core subjects and electives.***

***Secondary schools will be able to re-organize learning groups after each quarter or semester."***

Please click the link below for a more comprehensive look at that plan.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

Safety will always be our top priority. Much of our decision-making process will be based on working within the Ministry of Education and Health mandates.

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Parents are reminded to please read this information with a clear understanding that Notre Dame is coming from a safety first approach. All stipulations are intended to keep all staff and students as safe as possible.

It is important to note that we must all be prepared for adjustments along the way. How schools begin the school year may look different over the course of the year, depending largely on the evolution of the virus.

**With that in mind, as we begin the 2020-21 school year, Notre Dame Regional Secondary will adopt a quarter schedule with the expectation of a full return to school for all staff and students.** This schedule is different from our typical eight block linear schedule, where students studied each of their courses for the entire school year. The quarter system involves students taking two classes at a time for ten week terms.

Within the Notre Dame schedule we are looking at a **blended learning model** that includes a **Flex Wednesday**, where all students will participate in abbreviated classes at home. On those days online instruction would be one hour and 15 minutes as opposed to two and a half hours with the afternoon reserved for meetings, tutorials, etc. **The Flex day will be in place for several reasons:**

- 1) To support the emotional and physical well-being of all staff and students as we adjust to a new schedule amid the ongoing concerns related to the virus;
- 2) To allow for more extensive cleaning of the school facilities;
- 3) To maintain a connection with online schooling so as to ease the transition if we have to return to that format.
- 4) To allow for meetings, special activities, tutorials, etc.

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### **It is important to note that the Wednesday Flex day may include the following:**

1. Shortened classes online (all students remain at home)
2. Regular classes (all students at school). This option may be used whenever it is deemed necessary. Parents and students will be informed the week before if and when the Flex day changes.

You will note that many school districts and independent schools are looking at quarterly, semester, or hybrid schedules in order to keep students and staff as safe as possible and to help maintain cohort numbers below the ministry mandated 120.

### ***How does a quarterly schedule work?***

Students will take two courses at a time:

- students will take one subject in the morning and the other in the afternoon, each running for two and half hours.
- Wednesdays will be an abbreviated online day.
- The amount of instructional time will be very similar as in a linear schedule.

### ***Why are we introducing a quarterly schedule?***

This change is being introduced because it will:

- help give high schools and students more flexibility to transition between stages during the school year if the COVID-19 pandemic evolves;
- allow students to focus on fewer subjects at any one time, which will help ease the transition if schools have to move through the various pandemic stages, while facilitating at-home learning;
- facilitate stronger relationships between students and teachers that will enhance social-emotional well-being.
- It will be easier to maintain the maximum cohort size of 120

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## The current schedule for the first two weeks will be:

Schedule:

<b>Monday, September 7</b>	<b>Labour Day</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 8</b>	<b>Staff Orientation (no students)</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 9</b>	<b>Staff Orientation (no students)</b>
<b>Thursday, September 10</b>	<b>Grade 8 &amp; 9 Orientation</b>
<b>Friday, September 11</b>	<b>TBA</b>

More information will be sent home regarding the orientation details in the near future.

<b>Monday, September 14</b>	<b>Blocks A &amp; B*</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 15</b>	<b>Blocks A &amp; B</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 16</b>	<b>Flex Day</b>
<b>Thursday, September 17</b>	<b>Blocks A &amp; B</b>
<b>Friday, September 18</b>	<b>Blocks A &amp; B</b>

## We will implement a staggered start for students:

Grade 8 & 9 – 8:00-8:25 AM arrival – Attendance will begin at 8:30

Grades 10-12 – 8:30-8:55 AM arrival – Attendance will begin at 9:00

Grade 10-12 students may arrive at the same time as their grade 8 or 9 sibling(s) and will have two options: 1. Wait in a designated common area (with mask); 2. Wait outside until their designated entry time.



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- **Doors will not be open before 8:00 each morning.** Students who arrive prior to 8:00 will not be permitted in the building. **After entering the building, students must go directly to their first block class or the designated supervised common areas.**

### **Other important additional information includes:**

- **Health Forms** - All students must complete and submit the online health checklist at the start of every week. It is expected that any health changes prior to each subsequent day of the week must be reported. **If at any time during the week students become sick or show symptoms, they should not be sent to school and the office should be notified.**

Safety information can be accessed through the link:

[Notre Dame Secondary Return to School Safety Protocol 2020-2021 \(click here\)](#)

- **It is very important that all families engage in self-checks with respect to the health of all family members on a daily basis.** All students will be permitted and encouraged to take safety precautions while in attendance. That may include masks and gloves. **All students should have their own mask.** Though they are not mandated at all times, they have been deemed necessary in high congestion areas such as the start and end of each day, in the hallways during transition from class to class, in common areas, and whenever students are in classes outside of their cohort.

***“Under the updated health and safety guidelines, masks are required for all staff and all students in middle and secondary school when they are in high traffic areas like school buses and hallways, and anytime they are outside of their classroom or learning group and they cannot safely distance from others.” – BC Back to School Plan***

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Please note that the school will have supplies available; however, **families are expected to provide their children with one or more masks.** The ministry's assurance that schools would provide two masks for every student was based on extra funding for all public and independent schools. **Independent schools have not yet received that funding.**

- All students must have a personal laptop and earpiece. Any questions or concerns related to personal devices can be directed to [devices@ndrs.org](mailto:devices@ndrs.org). For hygienic reasons, the school cannot loan out earpieces.
- All students should ensure they have a charging cable for their laptop.
- **Required Attendance** - Please note that registered **student attendance has been deemed mandatory by the Ministry of Education.** If students choose to remain at home or simply do not feel comfortable coming into the school they will be supported as best as possible with the understanding that online classes will not be made available to them (except for the Wednesday Flex day).
- **Students will be expected to be in uniform;** please refer to our website for more specific details. A reminder that we do not have a summer option for the fall. All students must be in formal dress code.
- **There will be no off-campus privileges for any students during the school day.** Students must bring a lunch to school or pre-order from our Canuel Catering cafeteria options. Those who pre-order will have their pre-packaged hot lunch delivered to their designated room. More information regarding pre-ordering hot meals will be sent out at a later date. It is advised that all families plan to send lunches and snacks with their children until formal plans have been put in place regarding cafeteria options. **Again, no outside orders will be permitted.**

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- **Students who do not have a class in the morning or afternoon, or who have an appointment during school hours will not be permitted to wait in the building.** They must arrive at the designated entrance of the school prior to the start of their class and must leave the building immediately after being dismissed from class to attend their appointment.
- **Students must be prepared for schedule changes.** As we work through the process of managing the cohort limit of 120 (includes staff and students) we may have to adjust schedules for both staff and students.

Sincerely,

Mr. R. DesLauriers  
Principal