



ARCHBISHOP CARNEY REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

1335 Dominion Avenue
Port Coquitlam, BC
V3B 8G7

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year! We hope you have had a restful and healthy break with much needed time spent with family. We return to school this Monday, January 10, with many changes to ensure the safety of both students and staff during a time when the Omicron variant and its ease of transmission is present in our community. We have worked diligently this past week to ensure the measures we are taking meet the standards set by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and the Ministry of Education. Please read below as we have many updates for you and detailed information of what the next few weeks look like. If at any time you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email the office at 604-942-7465 or office@acrss.org.

Disease Prevention Plan

Attached you will find our Archbishop Carney Communicable Disease Prevention Plan. This document will change as the virus continues to spread or hopefully lessen in the near future; we will update it accordingly and advise you of any modifications. In this document you will find our plan for student and staff conduct and the measures we have put in place to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. Now more than ever, we must stress the importance of complying with these measures as we navigate through this time. Please read this document thoroughly and share the information with your child(ren) so that they will know and understand what is expected of them when they return.

Daily Routines

In order to minimize the interactions between students we will ensure all classrooms are opened by 7:55am. Upon arrival, each student can go to their locker and then report directly to their first block class. Students may not spend extended time in the hallways. Each school day ends at the same scheduled time prior to this change. Monday – Thursday will end at 2:45pm and Friday will end at 1:30pm. We expect students to visit their lockers and exit the building immediately. Students involved in athletic activities after school will be permitted to wait in the MPR for instruction from their coach. We plan to monitor the first few days and we may consider a staggered dismissal. All clubs will be suspended for the being. We hope to be able to start them again at some point in the future.

Masks

Another important measure is the proper fit and wear of a mask. Masks are mandatory and must be worn at all times except when eating in designated areas. We will be checking that everyone is wearing their mask properly and ideally, we would like everyone to be wearing 3-layer disposable masks. Please see the bullets and pictures below with a description of how to wear a well-fitted mask.



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A well-fitting mask should:

- be large enough to completely and comfortably cover the nose, mouth and chin without gaps
- not allow air to escape from edges
- fit securely to the head with ties, bands or ear loops
- be comfortable and not require frequent adjustments

How to make your mask fit properly



Make sure your mask completely covers your nose, mouth and chin.



Check for gaps between your face and your mask.

- Check the top, sides and bottom of your mask.



- Check the edges of your mask for air leaks and adjust if necessary.



Improve mask fit so it's snug and has no gaps.

- Adjust the ties, bands or ear loops.



- Adjust the nosepiece.

- ***Students refusing to follow mask protocols may be sent home for violation of safety rules***

Daily Health Checks

We would like to bring to your attention once again the importance of daily health checks. It is extremely crucial now more than ever that if your child is sick or showing any symptoms of Covid-19 that they stay home. Daily self-checks are imperative in keeping our community safe and help stop the spread of Covid. Please ask your child daily how they are feeling and if they have any of the following symptoms, please have them stay home, this is a requirement that comes directly from the PHO. We must note that if your child shows any signs of being sick once they are at school that parents will be contacted immediately and asked to pick up their child.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| ▪ Cough | ▪ Nausea/Vomiting |
| ▪ Fever | ▪ Headache |
| ▪ Muscle Aches | ▪ Loss of appetite |
| ▪ Fatigue | ▪ Chills |
| ▪ Sore throat | ▪ Runny Nose |



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Lockers

We encourage students to visit their lockers in the morning and end of the day only. Students will be permitted to bring their bags and jackets to class with them so there is less of a need for them to visit their locker during the school day.

Schedule

To ensure the safety of our staff and students we have developed a schedule that creates limited movement and contact with others. We are continuing with our Day 1 and Day 2 classes but with changes to times that include; double blocks (longer periods), staggered breaks and lunches by grade level, and daily flex blocks. All Day 1 and Day 2 classes will occur over 4 days instead of 2. There are only two classes a day, each one in a double block. We also have a short Flex Block daily that will be either before or after lunch. This block is included to organize a staggered lunch, create a time for a mental health check and to facilitate the Career Ed course requirement. Please see attachment #3 for more information and a complete daily schedule for the remainder of January. Please share this information with your child(ren) and if you or your child(ren), have any questions, please do not hesitate to call, or email. We have worked hard to develop a schedule that allows for the continuity of learning within a safe environment.

Study Blocks

Gr. 12 Students, who have Study Block on their timetable, will have the choice to spend their study block at home or at school. If a student chooses to spend their morning study block at home, they must be arriving in time for the beginning of their flex block. If a student chooses to spend their afternoon study block at home, they must remain at the school until the end of their flex block. In all cases where a student spends their study block at home, the student must sign in or out at the office.

Outside of Regular Schedule Music and Drama Classes

Block 1 For all grades 7:10 – 8:15 (Monday through Friday)

Block 7 For all grades 2:50 – 4:30 (Monday through Thursday)

At this time, we are not required to adjust any of our music classes other than to ensure that students are not facing each other and are all singing or playing their instrument in the same direction. Our morning classes will remain unchanged in terms of days and times. Please continue to follow the regular schedule for our morning and afternoon classes.



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Functional Closure

Below is the definition of a functional closure taken directly from the Ministry of Education:

Functional closure of a school, which is determined by the school or school district due to a lack of staff to provide the required level of teaching, supervision, support, and/or custodial to ensure the health and safety of students. This would likely be due to a high absenteeism of all staff or certain employees required for a school to function and the inability to replace those absences.

Each instance of a functional closure is different. There are no hard and fast guidelines that state when you reach a certain level of absenteeism the school must be closed. We will be in constant communication with the CISVA about the level of absenteeism of both staff and students. If we determine that a functional closure is required, we will contact all our families as soon as we are able. It is possible that a functional closure could occur on the morning of a school day. Please be sure to check your home email each morning as that will be our preferred method of communicating with you.

Online Education

Similar to last year The Ministry of Education has not provided schools with the ability to offer online education in any form. If your child is not at school for any reason, they will need to access the work posted on Google Classroom and converse through email with their teachers.

As you know, we cannot guarantee that your child will not test positively for COVID-19 as a result of being at school. We will continue to do all that is asked of us from the PHO and the Ministry of Education. It is our goal to have all students back in person in a safe and educationally productive manner.

If a member of our community does test positively for COVID-19, we will follow the guidance of the Public Health Authority and act accordingly. We were informed by Fraser Health yesterday that notification letters will no longer be sent home as there is little value in them with how fast the Omicron variant spreads. We will be contacted by Fraser Health if there are a high number of cases in staff, one specific class or one grade level. Once we are contacted by Fraser Health, we will share all that we are able to with you as well. As always please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. May God continue to bless you and your family as we transition into this new change and manage a challenging time in our community.

Sincerely,

Mr. L. De Julius
Principal