

Dear EMCS Students and Parents/Guardians,

We are thrilled to be welcoming students back to EMCS this September! While school operations will look a little different than they have before, we remain committed to providing the best possible learning environment to all EMCS students. I am grateful to staff, as well as our Parent Advisory Council, for taking time away from their summers to brainstorm about how we can service our students this year. The EMCS community remains strong!

By now you have already received information from the District that outlines basic scheduling and provides links to the [Sooke School District FAQs and Provincial Documents](#). Below you will find a few more details regarding school start up at EMCS. Next week, you will receive additional information regarding student schedules, cohort placements, gradual entry days (September 10/11) and additional health and safety protocol. Attached is our draft bell schedule for 2020/21.

### **Model for Learning**

We will be following a 1/8<sup>th</sup> model as outlined by the Sooke School District. This means that students will study one course at a time, much like in a summer school model. This model is being followed for several reasons:

- To keep cohort sizes small, maintaining a focus on health and safety.
- To maintain student choice. While we can never guarantee a perfect timetable, student course requests will be honoured in the same way they would in a semester system.
- Allows for focused learning. Our experience with summer school tells us that students with many learning styles benefit and appreciate this focus. This is particularly important at a time when students are experiencing change in many other ways.
- Allows us to provide extra support to students who are connected to our learning support teachers outside of the time of their scheduled class.
- Allows teachers and students to focus on building strong relationships with a manageable sized group. Relationship building between teachers and students will be key as students build their school routines after the interruption to regular schooling this spring.

Please note the following:

- Students will be assigned to a morning or afternoon grouping for their class. We will do our best to construct these groupings thoughtfully. Where we can keep siblings grouped together we will do so, but there are other factors we need to consider, including split grade classes. Please do not contact the school to request a specific grouping. We hope to contact families by the end of next week with more information about morning and afternoon class assignments.
- Students will be expected to take part in self-directed learning during the half of the day they are not assigned to class. Teachers will provide resources and support for this work. In addition to their primary scheduled class, students will be working on their Careers course online and at times, students will meet with their teacher in person. It is important that students schedule a time and place at home to complete this work. It is not recommended that students take on long hours in employment outside of their school work.
- Students will be required to follow health and safety protocols. These will include learning groups entering and exiting through assigned doors, using assigned washrooms, and wearing masks in hallways, washrooms, busses and other public areas. All students will also be expected to complete a home health check and must not come to school if they are not well.

- Students will not be permitted to loiter on or near school grounds, and will be expected to leave school at class dismissal time. It is all of our responsibility to ensure that we maintain our health and safety protocols and can easily track contacts between individuals.
- Lockers will not be available for use.
- We will be running outside the timetable courses such as Band, Leadership, Grad Council and Vocal Music. More details about these courses will come in future communications.

### **Contact Information**

It is important for the school to have current and accurate email and phone numbers for all parents/guardians, as well as emergency contact people in the instance that we cannot reach a parent or guardian. Please ensure that contact details are up to date in the Parent Portal ([click here for instructions](#)) and contact office staff with changes. **It is also imperative that all families have a pick-up plan for their children in case of road closures, inclement weather, or emergency.**

### **Consent**

Please be sure to visit <https://consent.sd62.bc.ca/apps/OnlineConsent> and let us know if you consent to following:

- Aboriginal Education
- General Consent for School Fieldtrips/Activities
- Google Apps For Education (G Suite) Consent
- Internet Access Consent
- Media Consent
- School Cash Online Consent
- MyBlueprint Consent
- FreshGrade Consent

### **Support**

Once the school year begins, parents and students are encouraged to reach out to classroom teachers frequently for information and support. Students are also assigned a Vice Principal and a Counsellor:

#### **Last names A–L**

Vice Principal: Mr. John Lyall – [jlyall@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:jlyall@sd62.bc.ca)

Counsellor: Ms. Sharon Jesson - [sjesson@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:sjesson@sd62.bc.ca)

#### **Last names M-Z & International Students:**

Vice Principal: Mr. Todd Powell – [tpowell2sd62.bc.ca](mailto:tpowell2sd62.bc.ca)

Counsellor: Mr. Allan Phipps - [aphipps@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:aphipps@sd62.bc.ca)

Students with Individual Education Plans, will also be assigned a Support Teacher who will connect with you once the year begins.

### **Medical Alerts**

Please inform Mrs. Rowe-Boizard in the front office if your student has any medical conditions of which the school should be aware. If your child is anaphylactic or diabetic, you will be contacted by the school to update your child's anaphylaxis action plan or medical action plan. If your child requires medication during school hours, please contact Mrs. Rowe-Boizard to complete a medication administration form. If you have any further questions, please contact Vice Principal Mr. John Lyall.

### Where to receive updates and additional information

- The [SD62 Website](#)
- Our [School Website](#)
- Download the EMCS Wolverines APP. See attached or go to [this link](#) to set up the Wolverine App.
- The EMCS Code of Conduct can be found [here](#). Please review this with your student. This may be updated again in September.
- The bell schedule will be confirmed as we review our plans for September based on guidance from the Province.

Please phone (250-642-5211) or email ([emcs@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:emcs@sd62.bc.ca)) the school is you require assistance. In the interest of health and safety, we are not open to in-person visitors.

We hope that everyone has had time to do the things that give them joy this summer. We look forward to reconnecting with all of you soon!

Laura Fulton (Principal), John Lyall (Vice Principal) and Todd Powell (Vice Principal)