

Updated Information for Families about School Re-start at NISS

A big welcome to everyone for the start of our 2021-2022 school year at NISS. **Our school year begins on Wednesday September 8th, and it will be a full day of school.**

Morning Ferries:

Alert Bay: Spirit of Yalis boarding time for students will start at 7:30 and will be leaving the dock promptly at 7:45am. Please ensure you are on time.

Sointula: Island Aurora sails from Sointula at 7:55am, so please arrive in time to ensure boarding.

Bussing:

Bus schedules are being finalized and will be sent out to families as soon as the information becomes available.

Bus arrivals to the school from Woss, Port Alice and the ferry will be between 8:30 and 8:40 and students will be directed to their specific entrances and welcoming areas.

Entrances for 8-12 students are:

Grade 8 Front Entrance

Grade 9 Multi-purpose room

Grade 10 Door near Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Sharpe’s room

Grade 11/12 Door by gym/drama rooms

Even though students will not be in learning cohorts this year we are keeping separate entrances to lessen congestion at doorways and in hallways as recommended by our regional health and safety measures.

Warning Bell rings at 8:43 and classes begin promptly at 8:48am.

All students are expected to attend their two Quarter 1 classes on September 8th.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8:48-11:46	A	B	A	B	8:48-11:02	A
11:46-12:39	Lunch				11:02-11:32	Lunch
12:39-3:26	B	A	B	A	11:32-1:46	B

Block A Scheduled Grade Group Meetings

We will call down students by grade to the Learning Commons for a welcome, orientation on school updates, and current health and safety guidelines. Student schedules will also be available.

Grade 8 8:50-9:35 Learning Commons

Grade 9 9:35-10:05 Learning Commons

Grade 10:05 -10:35 Learning Commons

Grade 10:35-11:05 Learning Commons

Grade 12 11:05-11:46 Learning Commons

Student Health

Masks

All grade 8-12 students and staff are required to wear a mask indoors at school, on school buses, and when travelling on ferries.

Hand Hygiene

Rigorous handwashing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness. Handwashing should be encouraged upon school entry and before/after breaks and eating, using washrooms, and using frequently touched shared equipment. Hand sanitizer is available at all entrance and exit doors, in classrooms and through the school.

Daily Health Check

Before coming to school all students and adults must conduct a daily health check/self-assessment. The British Columbia daily health check guide can be found here:

<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>

At this website you can also download the K-12 Health Check Mobile App for your phone or device.

For medical support and anyone who is unsure if they or a student should self-isolate or be tested for Covid-19 please use the assessment tool and contact your local physician or 8-1-1 to seek further health assistance.

Sick Students

If a student becomes sick at school, there is a space in our school separated from others, that is available where a student can wait comfortably. If the student uses a ferry as transportation, they can be transported in a vehicle with a mask. Please contact BC Ferries if you have any questions about your child returning on a ferry in case, they are sick.

Students who are sick or requiring self-isolation for 14 days will have work available to them either through paper packages or through Google Classroom.

Cleaning

Cleaning and disinfecting of the school will continue frequently and daily.

Boil Water Advisory

The Town of Port McNeill is under a Boil Water Advisory. Please ensure students bring safe water from home to drink.

Students Signing-In and Signing-Out

Students signing in late will need to come to the front entrance and sign in at the designated desk. This area will be labelled and will be directly inside the building in front of the main doors and office.

Students signing out early will need parent permission. Parents, please contact the office at niss@sd85.bc.ca or call 250-956-3394. The students will then be given permission to leave the class they are in. They should exit through their designated grade door.

Building Access to Families and Visitors

Our exterior doors to our school will be locked to limit access to our school building for continued Health and Safety Reasons. Family members and visitors are asked to make appointments with school staff if they wish to visit and can enter the school wearing a mask once they have signed in at the front door and checked in at the school office.

Communication

Communication with parents will continue throughout the year, on a weekly basis, using email and the NISS website: <https://nis.sd85.bc.ca/>

If you are interested in being a part of our school Parent Advisory Council (PAC), information will be coming out soon on how you can become involved, as well as upcoming meeting times.

Beginning the first week of school, the Principal will be issuing weekly bulletins for families (through email and posted on the website) to share updates and news about school procedures and programming.

Families are encouraged to contact the Principal, Ms. Jen Turner jturner@sd85.bc.ca or the Vice Principal, Mr. Ben Donoghue at bdonoghue@sd85.bc.ca if they have questions.

Thank you for your support and patience as we continue to work with all our partners to ensure a safe start to the school year. We look forward to seeing our students back on September 8th.

Kindest regards,

Jen Turner

Principal of North Island Secondary School

jturner@sd85.bc.ca