

FAQ – Parent Info Meeting about Burnaby Mountain’s Start Up plan Sept 3, 2020 @ 4pm

how will be the AP different?

The College Board (AP) has put out information that they are going to be more flexible with testing and testing dates. This allows us to still offer our AP courses

I didn’t check my email until today and realized that I missed the survey for whether I’m going to school or not. What should I do?

Contact your child’s counsellor if they are choosing a different option than attending school.

Are you still offering all AP courses?

Yes

If we chose to do in-school learning on the online form are we allowed to withdraw from in school learning say if the covid were to worsen

Yes, depending on space online...you can switch if you are not comfortable.

Will the PowerPoint deck be shared with parents?

Yes, it is already available on the school website.

will there still be student council and clubs?

Yes, but clubs and councils will look a bit different.

When will Grade 8s know who is in their cohort?

They will know what platoon they are in once they receive their schedule in MyEdBC. We have 5 platoons in Grade 8.

How will you keep students safe in a classroom with so many students? Will they be 6 ft apart?

The learning groups are bubbles that don’t require students to be 6ft apart as per the information from our public health authority. The blended classes will be smaller and can accommodate physical distancing.

Do you have the number of students that will be returning to school?

We don’t have the exact numbers yet, but it looks like the district’s 80% number

children will be allowed to go outside school for lunch or other purchase or they have to keep at school until they finished their school day?

Students can go outside/leave.

I might have missed an earlier similar question- if we send our son back to school, and later covid situation worsens, can we change our choice to study online?

Yes

If a student is required to self-isolate due to a close contact/public health requirement NOT related to their learning group (e.g. the student is directed to stay home due to an exposure through another group - sports team, church, family member, etc.) will that student be provided with an opportunity for remote/online learning while in isolation or do they simply have to 'catch up' on missed work when they return to their learning group after isolation?

Communicate with teacher when your child is sick. The teacher will be able to support continued learning.

Are there extra hand-wash stations provided, so there isn't a huge congestion in the bathroom? Does each classroom have a sink?

We don't have extra hand washing stations. Not all classrooms have sinks

What if my child has mixed classes in Grade 9 and 10 is he junior or senior?

That will depend on the class and how the teacher splits the groups. It will be the senior program with blended online and face to face instruction.

I am perplexed by the option for folks with documented medical conditions. It appears that if we exercise this option to protect our family members, we are apparently losing the entitlement/guarantee for our child to return to their designated school in their catchment when issues are better resolved. This is even more problematic when students have unique or extra learning needs, and where continuity with those support folks at a given school is logically associated with success.

Your students can return to our school.

Some of my daughter's friends expressed that it could take over an hour by transit to get home. They will not be able to get home before their pm online class starts. Will there be an option to stay somewhere in the school to access their classes if online?

Yes, teachers are aware that students will not be all able to get online right away, we will accommodate for that.

If there is a suspected case, are parents informed right away? I prefer to hear from the school before I see it in the news. Will information on positive cases within the School be posted on the School website or announced to parents? I understand this is the practice in some jurisdictions.

We follow instructions given by Fraser health and our public health authorities.

Will there be a time to make changes to the student's timetable?

This will be a challenge in Quarter 1 but there is time to make changes in Q 2-4.

Can the students skip the flex time and come directly to period 1?

Yes, as long as the student doesn't need to meet with their teacher or there is no scheduled assemblies. It is called student flexible learning time.

Blended Grade 9/10 classes? So which orientation day to go?

The grade level of your child is the orientation day and time they attend.

Can students from the same "bubble families" be assigned to the same learning group?

No but it can happen if the computer tumbles it that way.

Someone above asked this: I would like to +1 to this question. Hopefully it is covered in the presentation: I am perplexed by the option for folks with documented medical conditions. It appears that if we exercise this option to protect our family members, we are apparently losing the entitlement/guarantee for our child to return to their designated school in their catchment when issues are better resolved. This is even more problematic when students have unique or extra learning needs, and where continuity with those support folks at a given school is logically associated with success.

Students will remain registered in their home school if they are part of the immunocompromised learning program.

You are saying that unless they specifically need something during flex time, they will just go to period one at 9:15?

Yes

Will students have the same teacher for Period 1 & Period 2?

Not necessarily

How was the number of 60 kids for a learning group determined?

The district wanted to create learning groups less than the max 120 that the public health officer recommended.

grade 8 must come every day?

Yes 8:45-2:55

will choir and band be continuing?

yes

What determines which courses are blended and which are everyday?

Morning classes are face to face in most cases. If a course in part of the senior program it will be blended in the afternoon. If a course is mixed with junior and seniors then it will need to be blended by the teacher.

How are group music classes (i.e., band) being organized?

We are currently working on the organization of the band/music classes as they are quite large and it is complex.

Why are all the blended courses in the afternoon rather than half in the morning and half in the afternoon so that there are fewer students in the building in the morning?

We were able to make learning groups to create more face to face instruction. Students will be in their classrooms with their learning groups not mixing. After lunch it was important to provide few faces in classes because the learning groups could not be maintained at the senior level.

At 2:55 after school is over, can the students wait to be picked up in front or do they need to leave the school property immediately.

We would like students to leave the building as soon as possible but we understand in some cases this is challenging. Our PEAK program will be running afterschool for students that need to get homework done. This could be an option on days a child needs to stay past 2:55.

What about learning support blocks for 8-9 students? When will they happen?

Learning support blocks are still occurring for grades 8/9 but we are working on different models to support students as well.

Do students need to bring their own laptops to school?

Students can bring their own laptops to school.

seniors encompass 10, 11, and 12 grades, correct?

yes

Will there be a cooking class?

Yes, food classes are running

I had the impression that students would have staggered lunch times. It appears they have lunch all at the same time.

Correct, half of the seniors in grade 10-12 will leave at lunch.

where do the students eat their lunch?

Still in conversations about where kids will eat their lunch

Will students be asked who they would like to be with in their Learning Groups? (Senior and Junior)

No, we are unable to have student's self-select learning groups.

Is there a school supplies list for grade 8?

Yes, on the school website look for the grade 8 welcome guide

***Students should attend the grade group they are assigned to for the orientation days. If they don't have a class in period 1, students can report to the multi-purpose room on the day and time of their orientation. ***

in terms of electives, what will be happening with students who chose band, dance etc? Are they still happening?

We are still running Band and Dance. These classes will look different.

what are blend classes

Classes will include face to face instruction and online learning supported by the teacher.

will students be assigned to 2 AP classes in the same quarter? It will be intense

Yes, that will be intense. However, we have more than 8 AP courses so this is unavoidable. Students are also able to focus on only 2 classes rather than 8.

Will students have the same teacher all day?

Generally, students will have 2 teachers a day

so, if a class starts at 9:15, what time will they be allowed in the school?

We want to stagger students entering the school at different times, but this is flexible time for student learning so if they are meeting with a teacher or counsellor than they can arrive earlier.

Will the Grade 8 Enriched/Accelerated classes still be offered this year?

Not like in the past. Teachers will be able to provide students with enrichment learning activities within their classes for socials and science will be piloting a new enrichment model this year.

What is CLC?

Career Life Connections is CLC 11 & 12

for students in AP with exams, would it be possible to tone the courses close to exam dates?

The College board sets the exam dates, and the schedule is already set for when AP courses are scheduled.

Do the kids need to go from classroom to classroom or just stay in one?

Students will move from classroom to classroom between the two periods.

Next week just for orientation only, my kid is in grade 9 will come to school between 11- 12:30 for Thursday. What about for Friday?

They stay home

Please, add to your web site the plan, for the missing learning that the students have missed last spring, and will the Burnaby school district add more learning this fall or add more time next year in January. The learning in the spring, I found was lacking.

Teachers are aware that there will need to be student assessments, review, and skill building based on the learning that occurred in the spring.

We are still confused about how the film and broadcasting program will work.
Are the volunteer requirements for graduation still in place?

More info coming on Careers...work experience soon.

When will students get their schedules

We are hoping schedules will be available by Sept 8 and/or 9. They will need to know what their period 1 and 2 class is so they can go to the right class on the orientation days next week. An email with instructions will be sent when the schedule is ready.

kids online for medical reasons are still enrolled at the school, yes?

Yes, but if your enrolling at the Burnaby Online school full time, your child will be withdrawn.

Do the different entrance rules start on orientation day...or on the 14th?

Start on orientation day

Will the student schedules be sent to our e-mail or be shown in this presentation.

You will receive an email with information about how to access MyED to view student schedules.

Some courses are more amenable for 10-week schedules (math, sciences, etc.). I suppose that means music/band and PE courses would be on every day, for the entire ten weeks? Hard to play without recovering. I suppose that's the best that can be done.

Yes

if a kid is sick you will take as an absents or they can continue online without affect their assistance?

If they are supposed to be face to face than they will be absent from school but can access online instruction if the teacher is online during that time. Always communicate with the teacher to find out the best way to receive learning when sick or unable to attend class. All classes will run on teams so ill students can keep up online.

Burnaby online and at home learning for medical reasons not the same thing, right?

Correct, Online learning is different than the learning program for medical needs.

If PE is only offered in one quarter of the year, how do students stay active throughout the school year?

We hope students will continue to be active on their own knowing how important daily physical activity is for their health.

Will Numeracy 8 and 9 continue to be offered?

No, Unfortunately Numeracy 8 and 9 are not being offered.

if my kid has an orientation day on the 11th, do they need to show up on the 10th?

Students only show up for their orientation day and time

What is the plan for immunocompromised families?

The district is working on creating a learning plan for these families. Once we know more information we will share.

will the grade 8 courses and 9-12 courses be separated

Yes

My grade 12 student currently has 3 spares! it is possible for her to add courses once the timetable comes out?

Yes contact the counsellor sooner than later once you have the schedule

How will grade 11 and 12 students complete career life connections?

We are working on how to deliver Career Life Connections 12 for next year.

Are kids allowed to go off campus for lunch?

Lunch is very short and if they have an afternoon class it can be difficult to get back to school on time if they leave but it can happen. If students don't have an afternoon class in the building, then we ask they leave at lunch.

can a child pull out of an in-class course and sign up for an online course?

Yes, check with the online school before withdrawing to make sure there is space.

Seems like all grades are having lunch at the same time. Any thought given to staggering lunch hour for the grades to avoid large group?

We are still working out the details about lunch

Microwave is still provided for students to use?

Yes

For immunocompromised students (or family members), I was told that there is no option but for "unassisted" online courses (which will only have grading/assessment without any coaching/guidance or online classes). Please correct me if I am wrong.

The district is still working out a plan for our families that are immunocompromised. As soon as we learn more about this learning plan we will share.

Will there be classes on orientation days?

No formal instruction next week. These days are for student orientation. Instruction will begin on Sept 14.

I'm concerned that kids are not encouraged to wear masks in class as well. and especially when interacting with their learning groups. I have a child in snr and one. that's exposure to 90 people.

We are following all the directions from the ministry of health and our fraser health department. The school plan is fluid, and we are prepared to shift when told to do so.

what about AP courses and exams?

AP courses are running as usual. The college board is in discussions about adding another exam schedule in July to accommodate the quarter semester. TBD

If my child is signed up for at home learning for medical reasons but bms decided to switch to fully online classes would it be possible to switch back into our school?

There will be set times in the year for students to re-enter the school regardless of the program they are in.

Can you please give further details on the health check? Will the students be able to do this online? Are they required to check in daily?

Health check posters will be posted on each entry way. We will also email the check list to all families. Classroom teachers will also be sharing this on orientation day. Students are required to do the health check daily before coming to school.

Are students still able to change their electives?

It will be very difficult to change anything on the schedule for Quarter 1 but is possible for Quarter 2-4. Contact child's counsellor.

I'm confused about the logistics of the blended and everyday courses. What determines which courses are blended and which are everyday?

Why are all the blended courses in the afternoon rather than half in the morning and half in the afternoon so that there are fewer students in the building in the morning?

The schedule was finalized in June for a Linear schedule year. When we had to shift this summer, we moved the schedule into a quarter semester system. A lot was due to a very short turnaround time.

Is there a drop off and pickup protocol?

Driveway and Traffic

If you drive your students to school, you may have noticed that there is often a significant traffic jam near the school entrance and our driveway. We respectfully ask that you do the following:

- 1) Drop your students off down on Eastlake or in the Cul de Sac below the school entrance.
- 2) Do not drop students off on the ascending part of the driveway or on the inside lane of the drive as this can be very dangerous.
- 3) Encourage your kids to walk to school when possible.

Please help us to keep the driveway clear for the arrival of our two school buses bringing our special needs students and for district staff and deliveries.

So, when will students be finished on the orientation days? In particular Grade 9 students?

Grade 9 orientation day is Thursday Sept 10 11-12:30

When is the next PAC meeting?

First PAC meeting will be Oct 7

please repeat the scholarship talk date

Unlock your future October . A link with a virtual invitation will be emailed shortly.

will any sports programs run?

Teams can meet to practice and play but only within their schools. There is no competition between schools at this point.

GRATITUDE from our parent community:

BMSS plan looks very consistent. Thank you for all effort put into it.

Thank you for all the hard work put into this to keep the students safe!

Thanks Burnaby Mountain staff!!!

Thank you for all your efforts.

Thanks everyone for your hard work!

Thank you for all of the work that has gone into preparing and planning for this year!

thank you, all the teachers and staff, from BMSS!

I really appreciate all the work you have all put in. Thank you

Thanks to everyone at BMSS. if I have to do this during Covid, I'm glad it's with you guys

You all are so wonderful. We are lucky to have such an amazing parent community. Your questions are very important to us. Thank you so much for listening today.