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Education Built on Relationships

September 4, 2020

Dear LCS Families with Students in Kindergarten to Grade 8:

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at Linden Christian School! We are looking forward to having the students back to in-class learning on Tuesday, September 8.

As noted in our recent communications, it is clear that school will look different this year. I encourage you to take some time to revisit the [Reopening Plan](#) with your children prior to September 8 so that they can anticipate some of the changes in protocol.

God's provision allowed us to fully complete all three tiers of the 2019-2020 *Rooted & Growing Field Restoration and Redesign project*. We are very thankful for your support and look forward to using the space to support outdoor Phys Ed classes and enhance learning experiences.

Here are some important pieces of information for everyone:

Early Years / Middle Years (K to Grade 6)

- Students in Grades 1 to 6 begin on Tuesday, September 8. Kindergarten students will have a staggered entry, details of which were distributed previously. Please note the **staggered entry times** identified on the attachment, Designated Grade Line-Up Areas - click [here](#).
- **Grade line-up locations** are also referred to on the Designated Grade Line-Up Areas referred to above. When students arrive on September 8, they are to proceed to their designated areas to meet their teachers. Students in Grades 4 to 6 are required to wear masks in their grade lineup. Although not required, parents may choose to have their children in Kindergarten through Grade 3 wear masks. We anticipate receiving advice from Public Health on mask-free time soon.
- There will be signs on chairs indicating the location for each grade and classroom. School staff will also be there to provide guidance.

Students aged 5 to 11 years that arrive prior to 8:10 am will need to be escorted into the building directly to the BASC Program by their parent/guardian. The BASC sign-in desk will be located on the main floor across from the Admissions Office.

- Strong Connections for students in Grades 1 through 5 will be held Friday, September 25 and Monday, September 28. Teachers will be using these two days to spend time getting to know

their students academically, spiritually, emotionally and socially. One-half of the Grade 1 to 5 student body will attend school on Friday and the other half on Monday. In other words, your child is to attend school on only one of these days. You will receive notification of which day they are scheduled to attend by Friday, September 11.

- Regular school hours for Kindergarten to Grade 6 are from 8:30 am to 3:15 pm. Students may enter the building at 8:20 am. Staff members will be on duty outside the Main School Entrance from 8:10 am until entry and in the pick-up area from 3:15 to 3:40 pm. This year, lunch and recess breaks are as follows:

Grades	Lunch	Lunch Recess
K, 2, 3 and 4	12:00 - 12:25 pm	11:30 - 11:55 am
1, 5 and 6	11:30 - 11:55 am	12:00 - 12:25 pm

- **Grade 5 and 6 students who are new to the school** will meet their teachers on the west side of the Main School Entrance near the portable classrooms.
- Policies regarding Code of Conduct, Dress Code and Technology Use are contained in the LCS Student Handbook which can be accessed on our website via the Family Portal, found at www.lindenchristian.org, password LCSonline.
- The Before and After School Care Program Handbook for the 2020-2021 school year is posted on the website. Click [here](#) for ease of access to the Handbook. In the event your child(ren) uses the program, you will need to print and complete the Contact/Consent Form and return it to your youngest child’s homeroom teacher on September 8. Please note printed copies of the Contact/Consent Form will be available on the information board across from the Main School Office.

Middle Years (Grades 7 and 8)

- **On September 8 only, returning students** in Grades 7 and 8 will wait with their parent(s) in the parking lot until **8:40** when they will be invited to enter the school building.

Grade 8 students will enter the main school doors (west side nearest the portables) while the Grade 7 students will proceed along the sidewalk to the doors on the northeast side of the building where they will proceed to their second floor classrooms.

Grade 7 students will continue to use the northeast doors on a daily basis to enter the school in the morning, exit and re-enter at lunchtime and exit at the end of the day (proceeding down the sidewalk to the drive through crossing) throughout the school year.

Signs indicating the location of each grade and classroom will be posted in the hallways. Staff members will be on hand to welcome and direct students.

- **Grade 7 and 8 students who are new to the school** are to proceed to the Band Room (Room 180) at 8:15 am for a brief welcome and orientation.
- Regular school hours for Grades 7 and 8 are 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Students will eat lunch from 12:00 pm to 12:30 and have their recess from 12:30-12:55. They will have a 10 minute homeroom time from 1:00-1:10 pm. Grade 7s will be required to go outside for noon recess on a daily basis weather permitting. They are reminded to bring appropriate outdoor clothing as the weather turns to fall and winter. Their outdoor recess will occur from 12:30 to 12:55pm.
- While parents are encouraged to pick up their children as soon as possible after school ends at 3:30 pm, Grade 7 and 8 students may wait for their ride in the hallway adjacent to the school's Main Office or outside the main school entrance. Masks are required to be worn while in the hallway area at all times and while outside if physical distancing cannot be maintained. **Please note that after 3:45 pm, the second floor will have restricted access.**
- Policies regarding Attendance, Lockers, Grade 8 Off-Campus Lunch Privileges, Code of Conduct, Dress Code and Technology Use are contained in the LCS Student Handbook which can be accessed on our website via the Family Portal, found at www.lindenchristian.org, password LCSonline.
- Grade 8 students that have been granted Off-Campus Lunch Privileges are not permitted to leave campus during the first week of school.
- **Returning students in Grade 8 are reminded to bring their school issued lock on the first day of school. For those students whose lock was left at the school at the conclusion of in-class learning, it will be returned to you on the first day of school.**

Guidance for Mask Use - Grades 4-12

- Non-medical masks are required in schools for students in Grades 4-12, as well as for staff and visitors, when physical distancing of two metres is not possible. Parents/Guardians will choose whether students in Grades 3 and under will wear a mask.
- It is recommended that students put their masks on prior to exiting vehicles in the drive through line up so they are not trying to affix their masks while walking into the building.
- Homemade masks must have a minimum of two layers and fit securely with no gaps. Masks with ear loops are easier to put on and off.
- Masks should NOT have any holes or respirator/exhalation valves that are open to the air. These allow droplets to escape and do not stop the spread of Covid-19.
- Lanyards to keep a child's mask around their necks are not recommended as the mask can be easily contaminated.
- Students should have a clean bag or container to store their mask when they remove them to, for example, eat lunch. Please send more than one mask for your child.
- All teachers have a supply of disposable non-medical masks if your child should lose, break or contaminate their mask.
- Masks will go home daily with students to allow for washing--they will not be stored at school.
- Teachers will regularly review mask protocol with students.
- Click [here](#) for the province's *Guidance for Mask Use in Schools*.

All Grades

- **Family Portal (www.lindenchristian.org – Family Login password, LCSonline)**
The LCS Dress Code, Technology Use Policy and Code of Conduct are contained within the LCS Student Handbook that is posted to the website. **Please review these documents carefully with your child. It is important that you fully complete the *Acknowledgement of Understanding and Agreement(s)* being shared via Permission Click under separate cover as directed by the first day of school.**
- **Traffic Flow**
Adherence to directions provided by duty staff directing traffic is imperative to help ensure the safety of children transitioning to and from vehicles. If you have any questions, please ask our staff on traffic duty.
- **School of Fine Arts (SOFA)**
The School of Fine Arts offers private and group lessons in music and the arts. Click [here](#) to see information about the program. Registration Request forms can be picked up in the Main School Office or can be found on our website at lindenchristian.org/about/#6.
- **Performing Arts / MY Music**
Parents and guardians of students in Grades 5 through 12 involved in Performing Arts students will be advised when the Music Department Handbook is available on the website.
- **School Picture Days**
K-8: Wednesday, September 23 / 9-12: Tuesday, September 15
- **Professional Development Days** – click [here](#) to view.
- **Six Day Cycle Calendar** - click [here](#) to view.
- **School Supply Lists**
School supply lists can be found on the LCS website in the Forms and Documents section contained within the Family Portal, www.lindenchristian.org.

Families with children in the Senior Years Division received a letter yesterday to confirm that Grade 9 to 12 students with the exception of Cohort 1 in Grade 12 begin on Tuesday, September 8. If you would like to read the many details included in the SY letter, please [click here](#).

Once again, on behalf of the entire LCS faculty we welcome you to the start of another school year. An exciting year lies ahead and we are delighted that you are part of our community. Please feel free to call the Main School Office at 204-989-6730 if you have any questions.

In His Service,



Robert Charach
Principal and CEO



Heather Karr
Vice Principal



Jeff Thiessen
Vice Principal



Andrew Fast
Vice Principal

Summary of Items Requiring Your Attention:

- Kindergarten - Grade 6 Before and After School Care Program Information Form – due September 8.
If you require a printed copy, you may pick one up from the information board across from the Main School Office on September 8.
- Acknowledgement of Understanding Agreement via Permission Click - response due September 8