

First Day Of School Update

Hello Families of Hans Helgesen,

We hope you were able to spend summer break with your loved ones and are ready to return to Hans Helgesen. The school staff are looking forward to welcoming back our students.

Our first day will be **Tuesday, September 7th**.

Students will be at school from **8:25 to 11:30** on this day.

Students only need to bring basic supplies.

Kindergarten parents will receive a separate letter explaining orientation and gradual entry soon

Drop-Off & Pick Up

As you remember from last year, we went through a lengthy process of consultation with a focus group made up of the PAC, school and district staff, to design a traffic and pedestrian pattern in our lower parking lot to ensure the community's safety and to ease congestion and crowding. Both physical and behavioural changes made a dramatic difference by the end of the school year.

Changes: Instead of relying on traffic cones, you will notice cement barriers have been added to create safe pedestrian walkways and to prevent parking that blocks the driveway, for greater visibility. These changes will be an adjustment for all of us and we greatly appreciate your flexibility when following the directions of school staff.

Staying the same: Drop-off and pick-up windows greatly helped reduce congestion in the parking lot and on the road; however, at times please be prepared to wait your turn to enter the parking lot. Last year, we noticed there were parking spots available in the lot throughout both pick-up and drop-off windows.

Here are the specific details of the drop-off and pick-up process. Please ensure that anyone driving your child understands these guidelines:

Morning Drop-Off

- The morning drop-off window is between **8:10-8:25** at the lower parking lot. To reduce congestion, please aim to arrive within this time frame.
- Your child will line-up with their previous classroom. They will be here until we have permission from the school district to go into new classes.
- If your family is new to our school, welcome! We will meet new students at the flagpole out front of the school, where we will bring them to a class.
- Staff will assist students find their way up the sidewalk and to their line-ups as they learn to be independent.

Afterschool Pick-Up

- The afterschool pick-up window is between **11:30-11:50**. To reduce crowding and congestion, please aim to arrive within this time frame.

Health & Safety Reminders

Our direction comes from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, WorkSafe BC and the School District. A few reminders for the start of the school year:

- Students in grades 4 and 5 will be required to wear masks when indoors; masks are recommended for all students K-3. All adults are required to wear masks when indoors.
- Daily Health Check: Each day parents must check their children for symptoms of the common cold, influenza, COVID-19, in order for students to attend school.
- Students cannot attend school when they are showing any symptoms of ill health.
- When a child is ill at school, they will be distanced from others and parents will be contacted for immediate pick-up.
- Please create a back-up plan for pick-up if you live and work more than a few minutes away and ensure those adults are aware of our school's routines,

If you have further questions about Health & Safety and actions we are taking across the district, please refer to our District Webpage: <https://www.sd62.bc.ca/covid-19>

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together to ensure a safe and comfortable return to school for all!

Sincerely,
Hans Helgesen Team

Please see the next two pages for details and diagrams on drop-off

Parent-Drop Off

The student drop-off window is between **8:10-8:25** at the lower parking lot. Staff will assist students find their way up the sidewalk

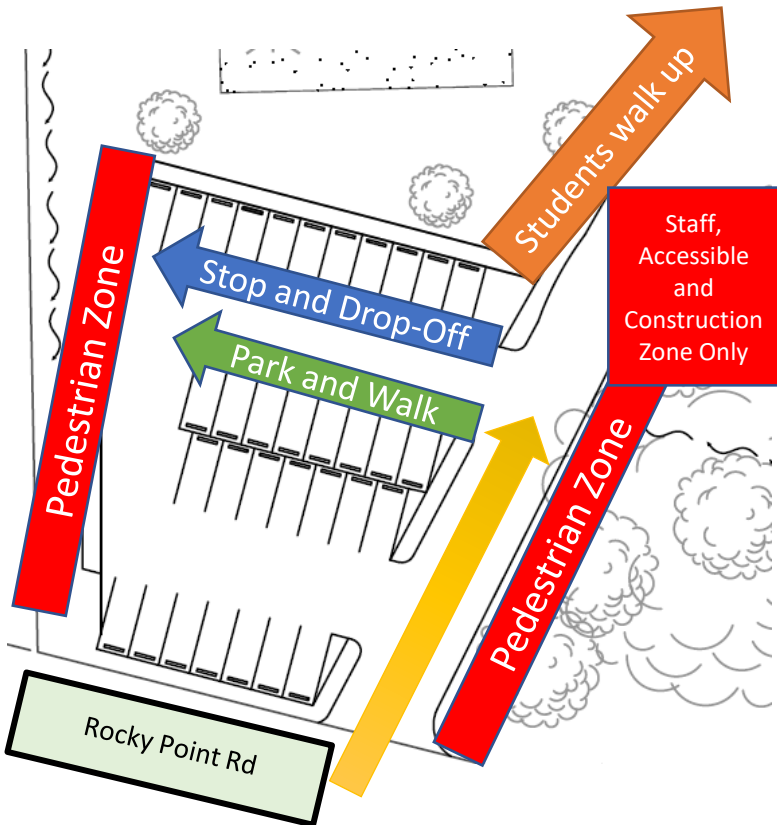
When cars enter the parking lot:

Please come with a joke for our staff 😊

The **left lane** is for families who would like to park and walk their children to the staff at the drop-off zone.

The **right lane** is for families who are dropping off their children in the drop-off zone. In this zone, vehicles will advance forward and stop.

- Students exit the vehicle with their backpack and walk to the pathway.
- Staff are present to help with door opening.
- The driver is responsible to make sure the students have cleared the vehicle and that the vehicle in-front has moved on.
- They then merge into the other vehicles moving in the parking lot



To start the year, we ask families to not play on the grounds or playground equipment during pick-up and drop-off, to ensure maximum spacing and avoid crowds. Families welcome after 3:15 😊

Dismissal & After School

The Parent Pick-Up window is between:

- **11:30-11:50 (First Day of School)**
2:30-2:50 (thereafter)
- Park in the lower lot in the marked spaces only.
- An adult/family member meets child at the same meeting spot as last year.
- Staff will be happy to assist you.
- Please remember this is a busy time. Staff will supervise your children until you pick them up.

