



September 3, 2026

Dear Buckingham Families,

Welcome back to a new school year at Buckingham Elementary! I hope you have enjoyed a restful summer filled with special moments with family and friends. We are excited to welcome new and returning families to another year of learning, growth, and connection.

This year, we remain committed to supporting academic growth and success while nurturing the social and emotional well-being of every student. Our dedicated staff have been working hard to prepare welcoming classrooms, engaging learning experiences, and meaningful opportunities for our students. Below you will find some important information about the first week back and reminders of expectations for the school year ahead.

First Week of School

Tuesday, September 8th, all students in Grades 1-7 will attend from **9:00am to 10:00am**

- **Returning students** should go directly to their **last year's classroom**.
- **New students to Buckingham** should go to the **library**, where staff will welcome them. Please enter through the main doors.
- **Coffee and Chat time** – see attached flyer

Wednesday, September 9th, 8:55am to 3:01pm

- **Returning students** go to last year's classroom for drop off and pick up
- **New students** will meet in the library again to start the day and will be placed with a classroom for the rest of the week. Please note that this will not necessarily be their classroom for the year. **New students will return to the library for pick up Wednesday and will receive details about where to go Thursday morning.*

Please note that final class placements are not decided upon until approval from the District. Please ensure that **if your child is away or if you have moved over the summer**, you inform the office as soon as possible so that we can have accurate attendance numbers.



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What to Bring

Starting Wednesday, please remember to:

- Pack a **recess snack** and **lunch** each day. *We are a nut-aware school
- Bring a **small pencil box** with basic school supplies, such as pencils, erasers, crayons or pencil crayons, and markers.

Kindergarten Students

Kindergarten families will participate in scheduled Welcoming Conversations Tuesday September 8th and Wednesday September 9th. These were scheduled during *Welcome to Our School* in June. **Please come only at your assigned meeting time.** Additional information regarding Kindergarten gradual entry schedules will be provided directly to Kindergarten families. If you haven't signed up for a Welcoming Conversation, staff will reach out soon.

Bell Schedule

- 8:50am – Opening Bell
- 8:55am – Instruction Begins
- 10:25am-10:40am – Recess
- 12:00pm-12:20pm – Lunch in classrooms
- 12:20pm-12:50pm – Lunch play outside
- 12:55pm – Instruction Begins
- 3:01pm - Dismissal

**** If you know your child will be absent, please notify the school office, 604-296-9004. If your child arrives late, please sign in at the office before going to class.*

West Coast Recess

Please ensure that your child comes to school properly dressed for any weather. Unless we experience severe weather conditions, students will go outside to play during recess and lunch. Send a change of clothes with your child(ren) so we can promptly address any situation that may arise, allowing your child(ren) to feel cared for and supported.



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At Buckingham, we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment where every student feels a sense of belonging and is encouraged to reach their full potential. We value the strong partnerships we share with families and look forward to working together in support of our students throughout the year.

To help keep our children safe, we ask our community members to follow the rules of the road especially during drop off and pick up times. It is important that we drive the speed limit (30km), watch for crosswalks and pedestrians, and adhere to the parking signs. There is no stopping or parking in the coned areas on the street. Illegal parking and U-turns near schools is especially unsafe. A friendly reminder that families **do not** use the staff parking lot as a drop off/pick up area.

To further support this commitment, we encourage families to review the [Burnaby School District's Code of Conduct](#), which outlines expectations for student behavior and helps guide our efforts to maintain a respectful school environment. The Code of Conduct also includes expectations regarding the use of cell phones and other digital/smart devices (e.g. smart watches) during the school day. These guidelines are designed to support focused learning, promote responsible and safe technology use, and help students develop healthy digital habits. We encourage families to discuss these expectations with their children as we start the year. Please also review [The Use of Cell Phones at School](#).

For resources on supporting your child(ren) with building healthy online habits, screentime awareness and credible online sources, you can refer to the [Digital Literacy, Citizenship, Safety and Wellness resources](#).

To our students: We cannot wait to hear about your summer adventures and embark on a year of new learning experiences together. We encourage you to come to school with curiosity, kindness, and a willingness to try your best every day.

Thank you for being an important part of our Buckingham community. We look forward to welcoming everyone back and making this a fantastic school year together!

With care,

Christina Coletta and the Buckingham Staff
(Acting Principal)