School District 72 (Campbell River)

Kindergarten

SEPTEMBER 2018

WHY GRADUAL ENTRY?
Gradual entry is designed to ease the transition to school by welcoming children and families to the school and introducing them to the staff.

- This gentle introduction to Kindergarten sets the foundation for a comfortable and secure beginning to your child’s school career.
- Giving children an opportunity to adjust to their teacher, classroom, and peers in a smaller group and for a shorter period of time.
- Providing time for a “welcome” conversation between the child, parent and teacher. You can begin to get to know each other and share important information about your child.
- Enabling the teacher to work with small groups of children in order to build positive relationships, familiarize students with classroom routines and introduce basic procedures.

TIPS FOR A GOOD START
As the start of school gets closer there are a few things you can do to help:

- Visit the school over the summer to play on the playground. This will help your child start to feel comfortable on the school grounds.
- Stay positive and cheerful. Talk about the exciting things your child will learn.
- After the first day, make your goodbye cheerful and brief. Don’t come back after your goodbye and don’t slip away unnoticed! Let your child know that you’ll be waiting when school ends, and be sure to be on time for pick up!

We understand gradual entry can be challenging for families with childcare. Thank you for helping us support your child’s positive start to school!

SAMPLE SCHEDULE
Schools will mail a letter to parents of registered Kindergarten students by the first Friday of July outlining their gradual entry schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 4</th>
<th>September 5, 6, 7</th>
<th>September 10, 11, 12, 13</th>
<th>September 14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten students &amp; their parents from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.</td>
<td>Partial Days*</td>
<td>Partial or Full Days *</td>
<td>Full Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tour of the School</td>
<td>Small Groups</td>
<td>Larger Groups</td>
<td>Whole Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet the Staff &amp; Get Answers to Your Questions</td>
<td>Family “Welcome” Conversations Continue</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* The first full-day of Kindergarten at each elementary school will depend on the number of students. Times for partial days will be provided by the school.

QUESTIONS?
Questions about gradual entry, contact your school principal before June 30.
If, by the end of August, you haven’t received your gradual entry schedule, call the school on August 29.
Respectful relationships with children and their families are vital.

We create an environment that is welcoming, nurturing, safe and respectful for children and their families.

Most learning in the Kindergarten program occurs during play.

All children have potential to learn.

We take children from “where they are” developmentally and help them take their next steps.

Learning environments foster respect for all learners.

- All students will have opportunity to better understand and respect a variety of cultures, both their own and others.

- Aboriginal perspectives are an important part of the historical foundation of BC and Canada and are integrated into the curriculum. (BC Curriculum Parent Guide)

Through play-based exploration and inquiry the kindergarten program supports development of communication, thinking, and personal and social responsibility. (BC Curriculum Core Competencies)

Oral language and other forms of representing are the foundations of literacy.

These beliefs were co-created prior to the implementation of full-day Kindergarten in British Columbia with our early learning, Aboriginal, and School District 72 communities.