



Pythagoras Academy

8671 Odlin Crescent

Richmond, BC, V6X 1G1

TEL: 604-370-0199

FAX: 604-370-1399

E-mail: info@pythagorasacademy.ca

Pythagoras Academy Health and Safety Plan

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UPDATED: April, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This document will provide updated information on our health and safety plans as they relate to the ongoing COVID pandemic and recent guidelines set out by Provincial Health & Safety Officials.

Premier Horgan, Education Minister Fleming and Public Health Officer Dr. Henry continue to provide updates and details with the public on an ongoing basis. At Pythagoras Academy, one of our top priorities is the health and safety of students, parents, and staff. Updates made to our health and safety plans reflect the recommendations and guidelines as set out by health and safety authorities.

The PA staff is fully committed to doing all that we can to maintain safety for your children and our staff. The Provincial Health Officer has recommended safety measures that we have implemented throughout our school.

Here is a brief summary of some of the protocols already in place:

- Frequent hand washing throughout the day
- Increased frequency of cleaning and sanitization procedures
- Spacing desks further apart and creating a personal basket of school supplies for each child (e.g., pencils, scissors, glue sticks)
- Staggering school start times and end times as well as recess and lunch times so fewer students are playing outside at the same time
- More frequent use of learning outdoors
- Parents in Gr. 1 to 7 will drop off students at the entrance doors and only enter the school when they need to see front office staff
- Parents will be asked to keep students at home if they are showing any signs of a fever, cold or flu symptoms. Staff will follow this protocol as well

Here is a brief summary of some of the protocols we will be implementing, in line with recent updates and recommendations (February 2021):

- Preventing crowding at all times; paying particular attention to the start and end of the day
- Avoiding close face-to-face contact whenever possible
- Ensuring that the use of masks does not reduce or replace practicing social distancing and other prevention measures, for both students and staff
- Ensuring prevention measures are in place in staff-only areas, including break and meeting rooms
- Implementing music classes according to the BC Music Educators' Association and the Coalition for Music Education in BC Guidance for Music Classes
- Ensuring physical activity is delivered in line with the guidance in this document
- Higher standards for when staff are required to wear masks

Additional measures are being implemented effective April, 2021 and are highlighted in yellow.

We will continue to cooperate with the guidance from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and update our policies in line with ongoing changes and recommendations as they are presented to us.

I am confident in our ability to maintain a safe environment for all and that we will come out of this extraordinary situation stronger than ever, with a renewed sense of appreciation and gratitude.

Warm regards,

Michael Bouchard
Interim Head of School

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1. Supportive School Environments

We will support students to practice personal preventative measures like physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and mask use by:

- Having staff model these behaviours
- Sharing reliable information with parents, families and caregivers
- Promoting them at Pythagoras Academy, by the use of visual aids like floor markings and signage

We will use positive and inclusive approaches to supporting the practice of personal preventative measures.

2. Cleaning and Disinfection

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces. There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution or sharing of books or paper based educational resources to students. That being said, we will still be putting books aside that are returned to our main Pythagoras Academy library for 24 hours prior to reshelving them. Pythagoras Academy will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BC Centre for Disease Control's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document. This includes:

Custodians' Responsibilities

- Custodians will provide general cleaning and disinfecting of the premises once in a 24 hour period.
- Custodians will provide cleaning and disinfecting of materials in each classroom.
- Custodians will clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces at least twice a day (e.g. door knobs, light switches, tables, desks, chairs, electronic devices, keyboards and toys, photocopiers, microwaves)
- Custodians will clean washrooms at least twice a day keeping in line with the high touch surface area protocols.

- Custodians will disable the water fountains in the school.
- Custodians will place disinfection sprays in the copy room, staff rooms, IT room, Music room, and Dance Studio.
- Disinfection spray is made with [Germalin](#) recommended by the janitorial company and says on their website: "Germalin kills Canine parvovirus and is likely to kill the SARS-COV-2 virus" (the virus that causes COVID-19).
- Custodians will provide daily cleaning and disinfection reports to school administration.

Staff's Responsibilities

- Teachers and staff will remove or limit the use of items that are not easily cleaned (fabric items and plush toys)
- Teachers will allow 24 hours between the use of shared books from the school library or the common book resource room.
- Teachers and staff will limit the use of shared equipment and instead assemble individualized/small group kits for many student supplies.
- Students and teachers will always wash hands before and after handling shared objects.
- Teachers and staff will wear disposable gloves when cleaning blood or body fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine). Wash hands before wearing and after removing gloves.

Implementation of Story Studio

1. Purchase individual baskets that the students label with their names.
 - These can be sanitized and reused each month as a new class enters the studio
 - Students will sanitize their hands when they enter and leave the story studio.
 - Students will go "shopping" when they begin the story studio and any materials that they add to their basket will remain theirs for the entire month.
2. Create a schedule that allows 1 cohort to use the studio for a month. Within that cohort (if there is more than one classroom) they will alternate days so that they are not in the studio at the same time.

October	November	December	January	March
Grade 2	Grade 1	Grade 7	Kindergarten	

Working in the studio for a month at time has the following benefits:

- This will also students to delve more deeply into the development of their narrative
 - Students will be able to leave their “stories” set up so that they can revisit them and build on them throughout the month
 - Students will be able to edit and rewrite their stories as they work through the writing process as outlines in our Pro-D with Adrienne Gear
3. At the end of the month, all materials will be laid out on the tables, sprayed to disinfect and allowed to sit for 72 hours.

3. Physical Distancing and Minimizing Physical Contact

Adolescent children should physically distance themselves where possible when outside the family unit or household. For younger children, maintaining physical distance is less practical and Provincial Health Office guidelines focus on minimizing physical contact instead.

Space Arrangement

We will arrange desks/tables to maximize space between students while keeping in mind the regular function of our classrooms. We will use consistent seating arrangements where possible. We will avoid activities that require prolonged face-to-face interactions.

Other Prevention Strategies

The following strategies should be implemented wherever and whenever possible:

- Implement strategies that prevent crowding at pick-up and drop-off times (various entrances and exits, as well as staggered times help us to accomplish our goal of avoiding crowding).

The following physical distancing strategies will be implemented where possible in Pythagoras Academy:

Staff's Responsibilities

- Teachers and staff will remind students to avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, high-fives, handshakes, etc.). In general, students will be asked to minimize physical contact with each other (even within their own learning groups/cohorts).
- Students will mainly be learning in their own classroom.
- Teachers and staff will remind students about keeping their “hands to yourself”.
- **Staff and students from Grade 4-7 will wear masks**

- Learning Groups (Cohorts):

JK: 41 students plus 6 homeroom teachers and 6 specialists (53)*

K: 36 students plus 3 homeroom teachers, 2 Success Centre teachers and 6 specialists (47)*

Grade 1: 40 students plus 3 homeroom teachers (43)*

Grade 2: 39 students plus 2 homeroom teachers (41)*

Grade 3 & Grade 4: 49 students plus 3 teachers (52)*

Grade 5 - 7: 45 students plus 5 homeroom or subject teachers (50)*

*Keep in mind that as enrollment changes (e.g., a new student is enrolled in a class) that cohort numbers will change; however, these numbers will not exceed 60 students.

- Staff will encourage timely return from washroom use for all students while emphasizing the importance of proper handwashing. Students will be encouraged to wear masks when visiting the washroom.
- Students' will have a particular seat that they sit in during their homeroom classes.
- Teachers will try to incorporate more outside time including learning activities, and place-based learning with students.

- Teachers will organize group activities that are adapted to minimize physical contact and reduce shared items.
- The front office will manage the traffic flow to limit the number of people in common areas, including hallways. Custodians and office staff will use masking tape to divide the hallways in half to show the walking direction to help with controlling traffic and minimizing any physical contact. Spacing tape has also been added at the copy station.
- School-wide events will not be held unless they can be moved online.
- Teachers will remind students about washing their hands frequently, about coughing and sneezing etiquette.
- Pythagoras Academy bus service will be unavailable until further notice. Decisions around reopening the bus service will depend on factors relating to the health and safety of students and staff.
- Pythagoras Academy hot lunch service will continue to be available at Pythagoras Academy. Pythagoras Academy reserves the right to cancel the hot lunch service at any time and issue refunds to parents. This would only be done in the case that it served the best interests of student and staff health and safety.
- Office staff, custodians, and teachers have placed Hand Washing posters and Social Distancing Posters in the classrooms, hallways, and offices.
- Teachers and staff will remind children and each other to practice diligent hand hygiene.
- Teachers will remind students not to share food, drinks, utensils or belongings.
- There will be staggered lunches and recesses.
- Teachers working with students within and outside their cohort will wear a mask and must try to maintain a 2 m distance from students (see exceptions page 12).
- Learning Groups/Cohorts will have specific play areas that will rotate on different days. Students playing outside their cohort will be asked to maintain a 2 m distance from those students not in their cohort. This will not be a problem as cohorts will be playing in different sections of the playground.
- Teacher on Call employees will wear masks (exceptions noted on page 12) and try to maintain a distance of 2 m whenever possible when they are working with any class.
- Staff and other adults should seek to reduce the number of close, face-to-face interactions

with each other at all times, **even while wearing a non-medical mask**. This includes during break times and in meetings

- Staff and other adults must ensure physical distancing is practiced within staff only spaces, including during break times, in addition to mask use.

Parents and Guardians' Responsibilities

- Drop-off and pick-up times will be staggered. Please see the Drop-off and Pick-up Plan section for more information on page 19. All parents will enter our school building only when they have an appointment with the front office staff. All visitors must wear masks.

4. Hand Hygiene

Staff and Visitor Responsibilities

- Staff and visitors are required to sanitize their hands upon entering Pythagoras Academy, before and after eating, after using the washroom and before using playground equipment.

Teachers' Responsibilities

- Opportunities for frequent hand hygiene will be provided by teachers including: when students arrive at school, before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch), before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk or locker), before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple cohorts/learning groups (e.g. the gym, music room, science lab, etc.), after using the toilet, after sneezing or coughing into hands and whenever hands are visibly dirty.
- Teachers will remind students about the steps they can take to keep themselves and others healthy and staff will model these behaviours throughout the day.
- Teachers will remind students to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Teachers will assist younger students with hand hygiene as needed.

Custodians' Responsibilities

- Classrooms with sinks are stocked with soap and paper towels by custodians.
- All classrooms are provided with alcohol-based hand sanitizer by custodians.

- Custodians will prepare a hand sanitizing station near the entrance.

5. Visitors

Parents, caregivers, health-care providers, volunteers and other non-staff people (e.g, visitors) entering the school should be limited to those supporting activities that are of benefit to student learning and well being. Visitors must schedule an appointment with a staff member.

- All visitors must provide active confirmation (sign in at entry) that they have no symptoms of illness and are not required to self-isolate.
- We will keep a list of the date, names and contact information for all visitors who enter the school.
- All visitors **must** wear a mask when in the school. (See exceptions on Page 12)

6. Masks, Face Shields and Barriers

Masks

We provide one reusable mask and one disposable mask to each staff and student and require all K-7 staff **and students in Grades 4 to 7** to wear masks in all indoor areas, which will now include when they are within their learning groups/cohorts.

K-7 staff should wear a mask indoors at school except when:

- **when alone in a classroom;** or
- there is a barrier in place; or
- when they are eating or drinking, **in which case they must be seated and must maintain a distance of two metres from others.**

Students in Grades 4 to 7 are required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering when receiving services indoors and a barrier is not present. Students are not required to wear a mask when consuming food or beverages but must be seated and maintain a distance of two metres from others.

For students in Grades K to 3, the student or parent/caregiver should determine whether or not the student should also be wearing any PPE when receiving services in close physical proximity.

EXCEPTIONS FOR STAFF, STUDENTS AND VISITORS:

The guidance outlined regarding mask requirements does not apply to staff, students and visitors in the following circumstances:

- to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
- to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
- if the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
- if the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
- if a person is eating or drinking;
- if a person is behind a barrier; or
- while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important.

Schools must not require a health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor's note) to confirm if staff, students or visitors cannot wear a mask. No student should be prevented from attending or fully participating

Those wearing masks must still seek to practice safe physical distancing where possible. We will provide disposable non-medical masks to staff or students who forget their masks at home. We will store the masks properly to avoid cross-contamination.

Masks are not a replacement for physical distancing. Efforts should continue to focus on using all available space and preventing crowding or close gatherings.

Face Shields

We will provide one face shield to all staff and students for their added protection. Office staff will be asked to wear face shields when providing First Aid.

Face shields are a form of eye protection for the person wearing it. They may not prevent the spread of droplets from the wearer. **Face shields should not be worn in place of masks.** Clear masks that cover the nose and mouth are another option when visual communication is necessary.

Barriers

Plexiglass barriers were installed at the front desk where we have high traffic of mixed staff, students, and parents.

7. School Gatherings

School gatherings should occur within the cohort and occur infrequently.

- We will seek virtual alternatives wherever possible when having school gatherings. If a virtual alternative is not possible, the size of the gatherings should be minimized as much as possible.
- Limit attendees from outside of the cohort to the minimum number necessary to meet its purpose.
- Any gatherings that do occur, must comply with the Public Health Order for Gatherings and Events.

Staff Only Spaces and Gatherings

Staff will **ensure masks are worn** and physical distancing is practiced within staff only spaces, including during break times. We will hold professional development activities virtually whenever possible.

If meetings cannot be held virtually:

- Staff **should wear masks if barriers are not in place** and practice physical distancing for face-to-face meetings.
- The number of participants gathered and the length of the gathering should be minimized as much as possible.

8. Stay Home When Sick

Staff's Responsibilities

- Pythagoras Academy staff will assess themselves daily for symptoms of the common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school building. **If staff or any adult has any symptoms, they must not enter the school.**
- Pythagoras Academy staff will need to notify school administration immediately if they suspect themselves with possible symptoms of the common cold, influenza, or COVID-19.
- Pythagoras Academy staff or students will be sent home immediately if they become sick and must self-isolate.
- Any student, staff, or other person within the school who has cold, influenza, or COVID-19-like symptoms should seek assessment by a health-care provider and self-isolate while they await the results.
- Pythagoras Academy staff who travelled outside of Canada must check with and follow all Federal and Provincial guidelines about re-entry into the country before returning to school.
- Pythagoras Academy students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household has cold, influenza, or COVID19- like symptoms, provided the student/staff is asymptomatic. It is expected the symptomatic household member is seeking assessment by a health-care provider.
- Pythagoras Academy students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19-like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.

- **If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, public health will do an investigation to confirm if any staff or students have been in close contact with that person and need to self-isolate.**

Parents and Guardians' Responsibilities

- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. **If a child has any symptoms, they must not go to school.**
- Parents and guardians will need to notify school administration immediately if they suspect any person in the household with possible symptoms of the common cold, influenza, or COVID-19.
- Parents and guardians will need to keep their child/ren home until deemed healthy by health professionals before returning back to the school building.
- All travelers outside of Canada need to check with and follow Federal and Provincial guidelines on re-entry into the country before returning to school.

9. Screening Measures

Provincial Health Office guidelines indicate Pythagoras Academy does not have any role in screening students or staff for symptoms, checking temperatures or COVID-19 testing. Such activities are reserved for health care professionals.

Parents and Guardians' Responsibilities

- **Parents and guardians must assess their child daily for symptoms of the common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or any other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to Pythagoras Academy. It is recommended to use BCCDC's Daily Health Check**
<https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>
- The school may ask parents of some students who are not able to self-assess to confirm the child does not have any symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease.

Staff's Responsibilities:

- Staff and students who are ill will not be permitted into the school building.
- A staff member will ensure school staff and other adults entering the school know of their responsibility to assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease prior to entering the school. Any student, staff or other person within the school who has symptoms of COVID-19 OR travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days OR was identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate, including children of essential service workers.
- If concerned, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further input.
- You can contact a family physician or nurse practitioner to be assessed for COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory disease.
- Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household has cold, influenza, or COVID19- like symptoms, provided the student/staff is asymptomatic. It is expected the symptomatic household member is seeking assessment by a health-care provider.
- Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19-like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.

10. Returning To School After Sickness

When a staff, student or other person entering the school can return to school depends on the type of symptoms they experienced as outlined in the When to Get Tested for COVID-19 resource. If based on their symptoms a test was not recommended (e.g., the guidance is to 'stay home until you feel better'), the person can return to school when their symptoms improve and they feel well enough. If based on their symptoms a test was recommended (e.g., the guidance includes 'get tested'), the person must stay home until they receive their test results.

- If the test is negative, they can return to school when symptoms improve and they feel well enough.

- If the test is positive, they must follow direction from public health on when they can return to school.

Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BC Self-Assessment Toll app, call 8-1-1 or their health care provider for guidance.

11. Exposure Notifications

Public health will notify by phone or letter everyone who they determine may have been exposed to the Covid-19 Virus, including if any follow-up actions that are recommended. Those who public health determines as close contacts will be advised to self-isolate. Those who public health determines are not close contacts but may still have been exposed may be advised to self-monitor for symptoms.

12. Playing Outside

The guidelines issued by the Provincial Health Office encourage outdoor play and learning as much as possible. Playgrounds are a safe environment. Sand and water can be used for play if children wash their hands before and after play. COVID-19 does not survive well on surfaces, other than hard surfaces. There is no evidence showing that the virus survives on sand or in water. Students will remain in their learning groups while playing outside during recess and lunch.

Parent Responsibilities

- Students should come to school in clothing that is appropriate for outdoor activities and the weather conditions.
- On days when they have Physical Education, they must wear their P.E. clothing as there will be no access to changing rooms.
- Students should be taught to independently change into jackets and outdoor footwear and clothing in a designated area of the hallway.

Teachers' Responsibilities

- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after outdoor play.
- Staggered recess and lunch times will minimize the number of children outside at once.

- Teachers will organize unstructured play or place-based play. Under the guidelines, additional outdoor time may be incorporated into each school day.
- Teachers will plan physical activities that limit the use of shared equipment.
- Teachers will ensure students belonging to a learning group remain in designated areas while playing outside. They will minimize physical contact between students in their learning groups and encourage physical distance between children outside their learning groups.

13. Ventilation and Air Exchange

Good ventilation will be achieved in our classrooms through the use of recommended air filters, air purifiers and regular use of open windows.

14. Music Education

Music education should occur in line with the guidance developed by the British Columbia Music Educators' Association and the Coalition for Music Education in BC.

Masks can be temporarily removed while engaging in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument), but must be worn while singing*.

**unless there is a barrier in place that is appropriate for singing (as per WorkSafe BC guidelines on effective barriers).*

15. Physical Education

People should be spread out as far as possible during physical activity. Activities should be adapted wherever possible to reduce physical contact. There should be no activities that include prolonged physical contact (e.g., physical contact beyond a brief moment) or crowding. For example, activities like tag or touch football are lower risk, whereas activities like wrestling or partner dancing should be avoided.

Physical education and extracurricular exercise should occur outside whenever possible.

Shared equipment will be cleaned between each use.

K-7 staff are required to wear masks during PHE/outdoor program classes when they are indoors and a barrier is not present.

LOW INTENSITY PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES: For low intensity activities (e.g. yoga, walking) students are required to wear masks when they are indoors and a barrier is not present.

16. Extracurricular Activities

All face-to-face after-school programs are cancelled in the school year of 2020-2021. We will offer an online Mandarin program instead. Students will attend the online program at home.

After-school care will be applicable for JK students only if all JK students are in the same cohort.

17. Community Use of Schools

Community use of school facilities must be in compliance with relevant Orders from the Provincial Health Officer, including the Events and Gathering Order and any other related guidance.

18. Case Finding, Contact Tracing and Outbreak Management

Pythagoras Academy requires people with mild COVID-19 like symptoms to be tested by health professionals to identify cases early in the course of their disease, determine whether others in close contact with them are at risk for infection (contact tracing), and ensure they get appropriate care and follow-up. Pythagoras Academy Office will need to report suspected cases and/or elevated absenteeism in a timely manner. Should a COVID-19 positive person be identified by public health staff, Pythagoras Academy staff will work with public health staff to determine if they are part of a cluster of cases or part of a local outbreak. Specific public health measures are implemented in the school building if an outbreak occurs to prevent further transmission of COVID-19 and keep others safe in Pythagoras Academy. Pythagoras Academy has the authority to close a school on a required day of instruction if it believes the health or safety of students or staff is endangered.

19. Students' Drop off and Pick up Plan

In September and on an ongoing basis, parents are not allowed to enter the school building to escort their children to their classrooms or pick them up from their classrooms. Parents will enter our school building only when they have an appointment with the front office staff. Parents should plan for their child(ren)'s arrival time to match with the time the classrooms are opened.

The drop off and pick up times will be staggered by grade to reduce the density of people around the school entrances at the same time, please see the schedule in the table on the next page:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Classrooms Open</u>	<u>Drop off Time</u>	<u>Drop off Location</u>	<u>Pick up Time</u>	<u>Pick up Location</u>
Grade K	8:25 am	8:25 am - 8:40 am	Entrance C - Kindergarten entrance	3:20 pm - 3:30 pm	Entrance C - Grade K entrance
Grade 1	8:15 am	8:15 am - 8:30 am	Entrance E - Gym entrance	3:20 pm - 3:30 pm	Entrance E - Gym entrance
Grade 2	8:20 am	8:20 am - 8:30 am	Entrance A - Front Entrance	3:20 pm - 3:30 pm	Entrance D - Library entrance
Grade 3	8:20 am	8:20 am - 8:30 am	Entrance A - Front Entrance	3:25 pm - 3:30 pm	Entrance A - Front Entrance
Grade 4	8:25 am	8:25 am - 8:40 am	Entrance A - Front Entrance	3:30 pm	Entrance A - Front Entrance
Grade 5 to Grade 7	8:25 am	8:25 am - 8:40 am	Gate E	3:30 pm	Gate E
JK Group A - Davinci, Kepler, Michelangelo	8:45 am	8:45 am to 9:00 am	Entrance B - Kitchen entrance	3:25 pm - 3:35 pm	Entrance B - Kitchen entrance
JK Group B - Galileo, Donatello	8:45 am	8:45 am to 9:00 am	Entrance B - Kitchen entrance	3:35 pm - 3:45 pm	Entrance B - Kitchen entrance
JK	N/A	N/A	N/A	5:30 pm or	Entrance B -

Afterschool Care				earlier	Kitchen entrance
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JK students drop off from 8:45 to 9 am:

- The parents of JK students will drop off their children to the JK greeting teachers at the outside door of the south end of the school near the kitchen (Entrance B in the map). There will be a sign-in sheet posted on the JK entrance door for JK parents to sign. There will be a second form where you will need to indicate your child's health status (e.g., by signing that your child is symptom free).

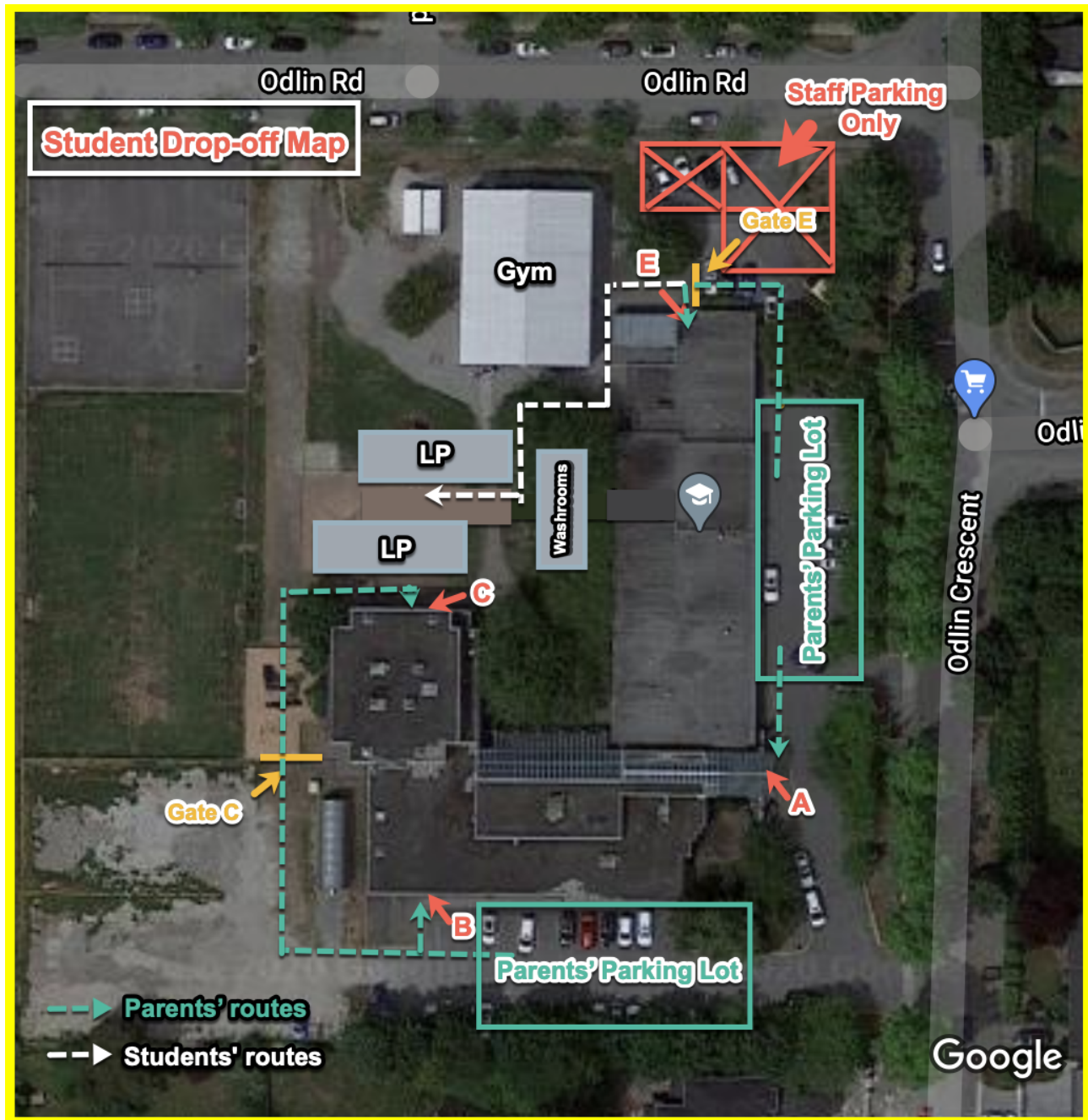
Elementary students drop off:

- The parents of kindergarten students will drop off their children at the outside door at the north end of the school near the learning pods (Entrance C in the map) from 8:25 to 8:40 am and give the greeting teachers a wave.
- The parents of grade 1 students will drop off their children at the outside door of the north end of the school near the gym (Entrance E in the map) from 8:15 to 8:30 am and give the greeting teachers a wave.
- The parents of grade 2 and grade 3 students will drop off their children at the front entrance (Entrance A in the map) from 8:20 to 8:30 am and give the greeting teachers a wave.
- The parents of grade 4 students will drop off their children at the front entrance (Entrance A in the map) from 8:25 to 8:40 am and give the greeting teachers a wave.
- The parents of grade 5 to grade 7 will drop off their children in the school campus area or at the fence gate near the gym (Gate E in the map) at 8:25 am and let their children walk to the Learning Pods by themselves.

Late drop off:

If students are late and miss the drop off window, the parents of JK to grade 4 students need to drop off their children to the front door entrance A. The front office staff will make sure they go to their classroom safely. Grade 5 to 7 students need first to come to the front office to get the late slips by themselves and then go to their classrooms by themselves.

Students Drop-off Map



During pick-up times, parents will wait for students outside of the 5 school entrances. Parents of students in Grade 5 and above may choose to wait for students in their cars. We expect parents to practice maintaining a physical distance of 2 metres or 6 feet from non-family members at all times (this applies to our school parking lot and when at appointments within our school). We will likely partition off the area directly in front of our school doors so that there is more space for parents to spread out while waiting outside to pick-up their children.

JK students pick up:

- There will be a sign-out sheet posted on the JK entrance door for JK parents to sign.
- The parents of JK students will pick up their children from the JK teachers at the outside door of the south end of the school near the kitchen (Entrance B in the map) from 3:25 pm to 3:45 pm in 2 separate groups.
 - Group A from 3:25 to 3:35 pm: Davinci, Kepler, and Michaelangelo
 - Group B from 3:35 to 3:45 pm: Galileo and Donatello
- The parents of JK after school care students will pick up their children from the JK teachers at the outside door of the south end of the school near the kitchen (Entrance B in the map) at 5:30 pm.
- For JK after school care early pick up, parents can knock on the windows by Entrance B to let the after school care staff know they have arrived. The staff will then get the child ready and walk them out to their parents at Entrance C. If the after school care group is playing outdoors, parents can call the front office to have the office staff notify the after school care teachers of their arrival.

Elementary students pick up:

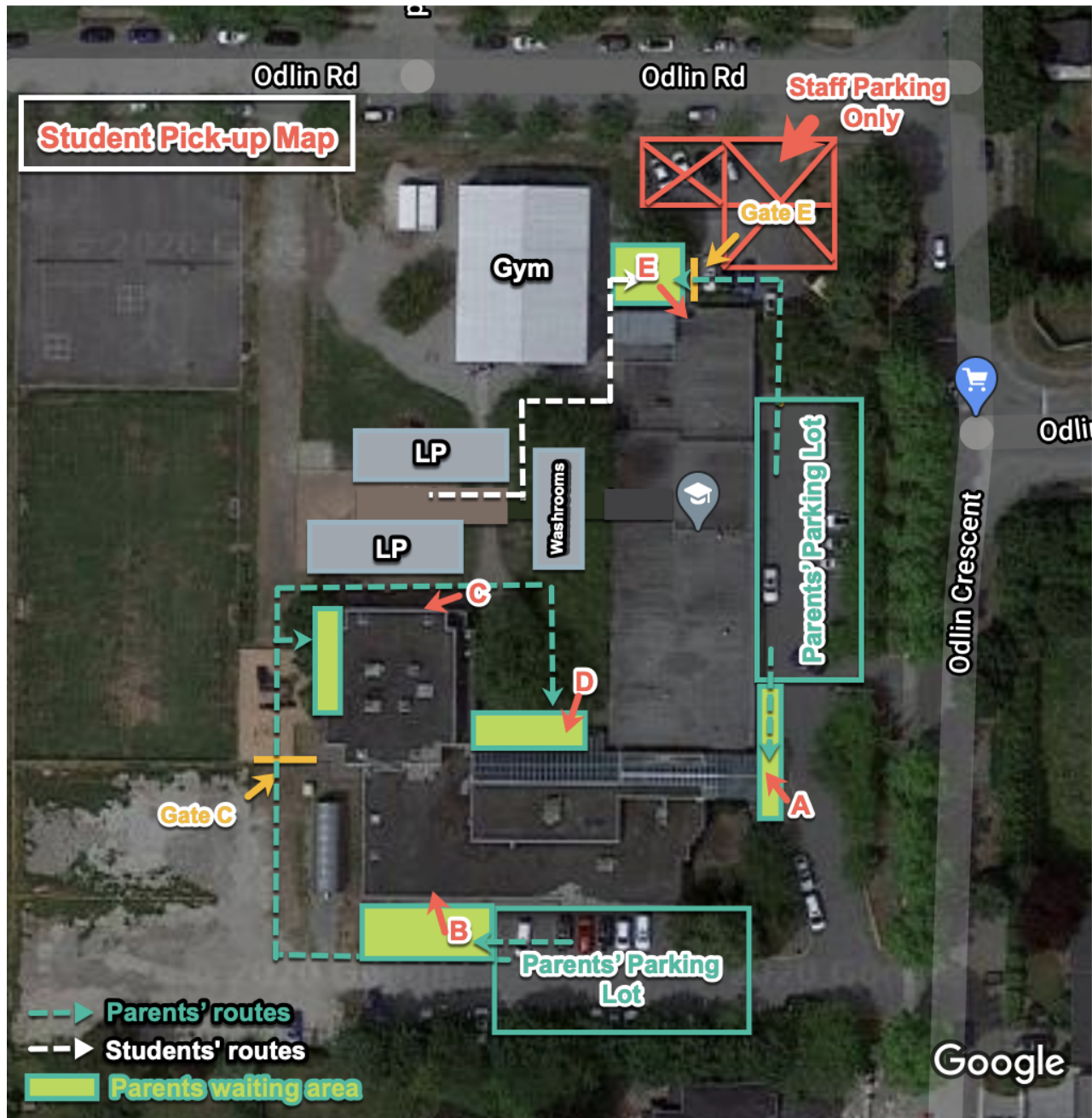
- The parents of kindergarten students will pick up their children from the kindergarten teachers at the outside door of the north end of the school near the learning pods (Entrance C in the map) at 3:20 pm.
- The parents of grade 1 students will pick up their children from the grade 1 teachers at the outside door of the north end of the school near the gym (Entrance E in the map) at 3:20 pm.
- The parents of grade 2 students will pick up their children from the grade 2 teachers at the library entrance (Entrance D in the map) at 3:20 pm.
- The parents of grade 3 students will pick up their children from the grade 3 teachers at the front entrance (Entrance A in the map) at 3:25 pm.
- The parents of grade 4 students will pick up their children from the grade 4 teachers at the front entrance (Entrance A in the map) at 3:30 pm.

- The parents of grade 5 to grade 7 students can either pick up their children from the front entrance (Entrance E in the map) at 3:30 pm or sign the consent form to let their children leave the school building by themselves without supervision.
- If a family has more than 1 child in grade K to grade 3, the elder child should go to the younger child's class wearing a mask. Their parents can pick them up together from the teacher of the younger child.

Late pick up:

If parents are late to pick up the students, they need to go to the front office to pick up their child and pay for the late pick up fee according to school policy. The late fee is \$10 for every 10 minute segment.

Students' Pick-up Map



20. Parking

During Covid-19 it is imperative that a 2-metre distance is always maintained between people in Pythagoras Academy parking lots. We strongly encourage that masks are worn when exiting your vehicles. Drivers can also wait in their vehicles if they see another driver exiting their vehicle at the same time, to create a safe distance between them. Keep in mind that there is a 5 kilometer per hour speed limit in our parking lots.

Please note:

1. Parents are not allowed to park in the yellow areas shown in the parking map including: Staff parking lot, Reserved parking, Tow Away areas.
2. Parents can look for parking in the neighbourhood within walking distance.
3. There will be a \$100 fine per incident for the first two incidents. Further incidents will be \$200 each, all deducted from the tuition deposit.



21. Students' Kit

We will provide one student kit to all students and teachers, and the student kit includes 13-16 essential stationery and art supplies to minimize sharing of supplies. Each student kit comes in a big carrying case and a small pouch. The big carrying case will be needed to go to an art class, and the small pouch with essential stationery supplies will be needed for other subjects. We will prepare a few items that can be replenished at reasonable times. The Art room will be used with additional safety protocols. Between uses of the art room by different classes we will sanitize each chair and table area. Students will mainly be using Art supplies from their personal supply kits. When shared art tools are used they will be sanitized between each use.

22. Health and Wellbeing of Students and Staff

The staff at Pythagoras Academy will continue to be sensitive to all parents, students and other staff members due to the stresses of COVID-19. Taking care of your physical health is also good for your mental health. It's more important than ever to keep yourself healthy.

1. Providing inclusive and compassionate learning environments.

- Teachers will start the day with a **Morning Meeting** or a **MindUp** exercise to check in with the students.
- Staff members will be assigned to provide extra support for listening and comfort.

2. Understanding coping strategies.

- Students and teachers will model and practice taking deep breaths, stretching or meditation.
- Eat healthy, exercise outdoors regularly and get plenty of sleep.
- Use **Morning Meeting** or **Mind Up** resources

3. Helping to minimize additional stress or trauma by addressing individual student needs.

- Make time to unwind and do some other activities you enjoy.
- Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.
- Virtual connection with others can improve mood and lower stress.

4. Supporting independence.

There are many things you can do to support your child at home.

- Take time to talk with your child about the COVID-19 outbreak. Answer questions and share facts about COVID19 in a way that your child can understand.
- Reassure your child that they are safe. Let them know it is ok if they feel upset. Share with them how you deal with your own stress so that they can learn how to cope from you.
- Limit your family's exposure to news coverage of the event, including social media. Children may misinterpret what they hear and can be frightened about something they do not understand.
- Try to keep up with regular routines. Create a schedule for learning activities and relaxing or fun activities.
- Be a role model. Take breaks, get plenty of sleep, exercise outdoors, and eat well. Connect with your friends and family members.

23. Food and Water Safety Plan Protocol

The school meal program will continue to work with our community partners and provide meal support to families in alignment with current public health guidelines.

The school emphasizes that food and beverages will not be shared.

The school will not allow homemade food items to be made available to other students at this time (e.g. birthday treats). The staff and students will sing "Happy Birthday" to each student who celebrates a birthday at school. No individual treats or gift bags are allowed at this time.

The school will provide a Morning Snack and Hot Lunch that will be served in individual packages using Food Safe Protocol and Nutrition Guidelines in Schools in BC.

All students will clean and sanitize their hands before and after eating food.

We will provide a morning snack to the children each day and they will also be served a lunch. No afternoon snack will be provided due to the lack of afterschool programs at this time. The funds saved by cutting the afternoon snack will be reinvested in the morning snack.

Lunch will be provided from Libby Foods. The meal will be served in an individual plastic container. The meal will include a carbohydrate (rice, brown rice, pasta, quinoa, barley, buckwheat, potato or beans), meat (chicken, beef, pork) or fish and steamed vegetables (broccoli, carrots, cauliflower).

All food containers will be collected, rinsed and recycled. Kitchen staff will wear gloves during this process.

Parents responsibilities:

- Parents and guardians will ensure students bring two water bottles to school. Please label the water bottles. Only staff will have access to water fountains in our school hallways.
- The school will not allow homemade food items to be made available to other students at this time (e.g. birthday treats). The staff and students will sing “Happy Birthday” to each student who celebrates a birthday at school. No individual treats or gift bags are allowed at this time.

24. FAQ for Parents and Guardians

- a) How will the classrooms and the school environment be configured to allow distance between students and adults?

Pythagoras Academy staff will support students to minimize their physical contact. See the Pick up and Drop off section of this document for more information. We will optimize the classroom design and placement of the furniture in the classroom to give students the maximum space possible. We will also be using 5 entrances for pick up and drop off as opposed to the one entrance we were using previously. As an added measure, we will only be allowing parents into the building when they have pre-booked their appointment with the front office.

- b) Is it safe for children to attend school?

According to current worldwide data, COVID-19 has a very low infection rate in people 19 years old and under, and especially low in children under the age of 10. Studies show that most COVID-19 cases in children originate from symptomatic adult family members, not from peers.

Even in family bubbles, adults appear to be the primary spreaders of the virus. Children who do test positive for COVID-19 usually have milder symptoms, such as a low-grade fever, dry cough, and gastrointestinal issues. Government officials have stated, “We know the downside impact on some children, particularly those children who are falling behind is never made up if schools are closed for an extended period”.

c) Will children and staff wear masks?

We will provide one reusable mask and one disposable mask to each staff and student and require all K-7 staff to wear masks in all indoor areas, which will now include when they are within their learning groups/cohorts.

They are permitted to take off their masks only when:

- when alone in a classroom; or
- there is a barrier in place; or
- when they are eating or drinking.

For all K-3 students in an elementary school, wearing masks indoors remains a choice that students and families make on an individual basis. Pythagoras Academy staff will still encourage students to wear masks whenever possible. Even when wearing a mask, staff and students will be asked to maintain physical distancing from people outside of their cohort. We will provide disposable non-medical masks to staff or students who forget their masks at home. We will provide a solution to store the masks properly to avoid cross-contamination.

Students in Grades 4 to 7 are required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering when receiving services indoors and a barrier is not present.

For students in Grades K to 3, the student or parent/caregiver should determine whether or not the student should also be wearing any PPE when receiving services in close physical proximity.

d) How will textbooks and other school supplies be cleaned?

According to the Provincial Health Office guidelines there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution or sharing of books or paper-based educational resources to students because of

COVID-19. However, in our main school library, we will keep returned books out of circulation for 24 hours before reshelving them. All students will have personal kits for their own school supplies.

The use of shared supplies is not encouraged. All shared materials will be sanitized between usage.

Library and Book Room

- All students, teachers and other adults will clean and sanitize their hands before entering the library.
- The school will limit the number of children in the library at one time to help maintain physical distancing.
- There will be appropriate environmental cleaning of high touch surfaces between groups.
- The main school library will practice a protocol that takes books out of circulation for 24 hours before they are reshelved.
- Teachers will use their own personal devices to locate books in the library using Destiny.
- The classroom teacher or teacher librarian will check out books for all students and parents. All Guided Reading books will be returned to the bookroom and placed in a designated return bin. The books will be taken out of circulation for 24 hours before being reshelved.

e) What is the schedule for in-class instruction?

Full-time instruction for all students. There will be staggered drop-off/pick-up times and staggered lunch and recess times.

f) Will my child have the same teacher as they did before?

Every effort will be made to keep students with their usual teacher. However, this may not be possible for every class. Staffing decisions will be made in consideration of the health and safety of students and staff.

g) Will there be after-school care and after-school class available in the school building?

All face-to-face after-school programs are cancelled in the school year of 2020-2021. We will offer an online Mandarin program instead. Students will attend the online program at home.

After-school care will be applicable for JK students only as all JK students are in the same cohort.

h) Will there be field trips for students?

Unfortunately, field trips will not take place for the remainder of the school year. However, increased time outdoors will be incorporated into each school day. We will look into opportunities for having virtual field trips and guest speakers who will maintain physical distance from all staff and students within a cohort.

i) Does the exception that allows someone to temporarily remove their mask “to engage in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask” apply to teachers delivering instruction in the classroom?

No, that exception is intended to address situations where one cannot engage in the educational activity while wearing a mask either because it is not possible to do so (e.g. playing a wind instrument), or because there is a potential safety issue from doing so (e.g. masks become wet during high-intensity physical activity and more difficult to breathe through). That exception would not apply to activities such as delivering instruction in a classroom, or singing in a music class.

25. Useful Links Recommended by Provincial Health Office

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for the K-12 School Settings

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19_k-12_school_guidance_-_2020_may_15_-_final.pdf

Guidelines for Re-Entry into the School Setting During the Pandemic

<https://nactatr.com/news/files/01GuideRe-Entry.pdf>

Trauma-Informed Practice

<https://mytrainingbc.ca/traumainformedpractice/>

COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool

<https://bc.thrive.health/>

BCCDC's Hand Washing Poster

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf

BC Centre for Disease Control website

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/masks>

Care for yourself and others

<http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19-Care-for-yourself-others.pdf>

Cleaning and disinfecting public settings

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf

Physical distancing

<http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID19-Physical-distancing.pdf>