



August 31, 2022

ÉCOLE WILLOWS SCHOOL

Update



Welcome Back!

We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer! We are so excited to see students back at school on Tuesday!

Students will be spending time in their former classrooms until either Thursday or Friday morning. It has been a busy summer with families moving into our community and families leaving. This gives us time to confirm how many students will be attending Willows for the 2022/23 school year.

Below you will find information about the first week of school.

September 2022 Start Up

Please meet your 2021 / 2022 class at your previous meeting place at 9 am on Tuesday.

New students, please meet in the library (the library doors are near the front entrance of the school).

Monday, September 5	Tuesday, September 6	Wednesday, September 7	Thursday, September 8	Friday, September 8
Labour Day	First Day 9:00—11:30 Grade 1 to 5 Returning students meet your previous teacher at your meeting place New students meet in the library near front entrance)	First Full Day 8:45—2:37	Full Day 8:45—2:37	Full Day 8:45—2:37

All students in grade 1 to 5 will remain with their class from last year and move to new classes once we know what our enrollment for the 2022 2023 school year looks like. This will likely be Thursday or Friday morning. Your child's new teacher will send you a welcome email the evening before we move to new classes to let you know what class your child will be in before we move into our new classes. Please check your emails from the school this week.

New students will be placed with same age peers until we move into our new classes.

New Kindergarten students please see the schedule for [gradual entry](#) that you received at the end of June. Please join us for the scheduled events that work for your family. We are looking forward to meeting you!

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

School Supplies 2022 / 2023

A reminder that for the 2022 / 2023 school year, we are buying school supplies for students through the school. ***Please note that you will not need to pick up supplies from the school. Your child's teacher will provide them with supplies they need when they come to school.*** We are encouraging families to order through the school as this allows teachers to order what is needed for their class, reduce extra or left-over supplies, and provide consistency in each class. All funds will be used to pay for students' school supplies.

In June, we asked families to pay \$30 for each child to cover the cost of the supplies that families would usually send their children to school with if they were able to.

If you did not have the chance to purchase supplies before the end of the year, the link to purchase school supplies for the school is open again. You can visit the school website and click the link "school cash online payments". You will be prompted to either sign in or register.

<https://www.schoolcashonline.com/>. If you wish, you are welcome to pay for an additional child to help cover the cost for families who cannot pay.

School Calendar and Schedule 2022 / 2023

Please see the link to our school year calendar and schedule on the school website with important dates, holidays and non-instructional days.

<https://willows.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/calendar/school-calendar-2022-2023/>

Welcome New Staff

We would like to welcome our new staff to Willows

Jennifer Thorkelsson— Counsellor	Lisa Shapiro—English Grade 3 / 4 with Mrs. Helms
Jennifer-Leigh Gould— Inclusive Learning	Martina Nowak—English Grade 3 / 4 with Mr. Wardell
Helena Pryds— English K / 1 with Mrs. Frankson	Sophia Bullock—French Grade 4
Fraser Gibson— Strings	Abbey Bell—French Grade 5 with Mme Olivia
Alison Gillespie— Education Assistant	Collin Law and Dan Burkmar—Custodians

Greater Victoria School District Elementary Schedule Update (*recess and lunch times*)

The District would like to thank the school staff members and educational community for engaging in many thoughtful conversations about elementary school schedules. There was much planning and consultation that accompanied decisions made for the 2022-2023 school year, especially about eat and play times during the day. Just recently the district has received a legal Arbitration ruling specifically about learning lunch. On a go-forward basis beginning in September, elementary students will have a 45 minute break mid-day to eat and play; this break will separate the morning and afternoon instructional times. Instructional minutes and eating time will no longer be combined. As always, the District will continue to engage the community each year to evaluate and assess the schedule to determine best practices for students.

What students should bring to school

Lunch and snack

- Refillable water bottles
- Containers and packages that students can open independently
- Reusable containers are encouraged. Students will be asked to take home any remaining food and garbage from their snacks and lunches.
- Students are to bring food and snacks that are nut and allergen free. Information will be sent home if there are any allergies in your child's class to be aware of. We ask that student do not bring food to share

Clothing

Students need to be prepared with clothing that allows be outside and to be active. Students will be outside at recess time most days. Please make sure your child has west coast appropriate coats and footwear when the weather gets colder. It is a good idea to have a change of clothes at school.

School Supplies

- Teachers have ordered the school supplies needed for your child. You do not need to send these to school.

Please leave any valuable items toys at home



A Message from Oak Bay Parks, Recreation and Culture...

Staff needed for Before and After School Programs

Oak Bay Parks, Recreation, and Culture has fantastic opportunities to join our growing staff team!! Specifically, staff are looking for new employees to work in the Before and After School Care programs! If you, or anyone you know loves working with children and is over the age of 19 we encourage you to apply!

Benefits of working for Oak Bay Parks, Recreation, and Culture include a fun and supportive work environment, staff access pass for use in the fitness studio, arena, and pool (with regularly scheduled shifts), and opportunities for advancement.

More information on the before and after school care positions, as well as all available positions at Oak Bay can be found here: <https://www.oakbay.ca/parks-recreation/contact-us/employment>