September 7th, 2020

Dear Central Students and Families:

Greetings to you all! I hope that you have had a wonderful summer with family and friends, and are looking forward to another great year of learning. As this is my second year of being Principal of Central, I am really looking forward to seeing returning students and to getting to know our new Spartans!

At the school we are in final stages of preparation for the year to come. As you know due to COVID-19 Mr. Maxwell and I have returned to school much earlier than usual to prepare for our “new normal” which includes different structures and safety protocols that we never had as students ourselves. School will look different for our children this year. We are following the Provincial Covid-19 Guidelines as well as School District polices as we organize for the year to come.

Attached please find two visuals that explain Student Safety Protocols and School Organization for the year. Protocols will be reinforced constantly by all our staff as we know it might take a little time for everyone to understand what to do—your support in teaching our children is welcomed. As you know, we are offering both In Class and Hybrid learning opportunities to families. Through survey and phone calls, families have chosen one or the other of these options. The organization document allows everyone to see the schedule for these programs. Please go over these documents before your child returns to school. It will be extremely important for students to understand what is expected of them.

School start up is also very different this year. On Tuesday September 8th and Wednesday September 9th Staff only will come for Orientation Days. We will be going over safety protocols and making sure we are ready to welcome student.

On Thursday September 10th and Friday September 11th, students will come in for short transition times to meet their advisory teacher, learn how to come in to school, getting in to class and start learning all the protocols to be as safe as possible. Our schedule is as follows:

 Grade 6 Students 9am-10:30am

 Grade 7 Students 11:00am-12noon

 Grade 8 Students 1:00pm-2:00pm

We will be sending each family an email on Wednesday to let them know specifically where their child should go at their allocated time. We will have a lot of adults here to help, but we will not have the usual boards with information which can cause students to clump together. Please send your child with a mask - if they don’t have a mask we will be happy to provide one to them.

\*\*\*Please note that if your child is in the Hybrid Option, they DO NOT come to school this week. Mr. Maxwell will send out a zoom invite for Friday and will do the orientation virtually.

In addition to this letter, we will be sending out further information during the first week of school. In that pack-up there will be a number of important forms for you to review and sign. Your child will receive them from their Advisory teacher. Please return these as soon as possible, as the information in them is critical to our school operations.

The first PAC meeting of the year will be at 7pm on September 15th via Zoom. As a Central parent you are already a member of this advisory group, so I encourage you to attend to stay involved in your child's school. PAC support is a critical ingredient in a strong Central.

If you have yet to purchase school supplies, grade level supply lists are available on the website at: [**https://central.sd61.bc.ca/student-info/supplies/**](https://central.sd61.bc.ca/student-info/supplies/)

As you are aware, we do not allow students to bring their cell phones to Central. This has proven to have had a very positive effect on our learning environment. Please remind your child to leave their phone at home. Parents, if you have any questions or need clarification, please contact me at 250-386-3591.

Lastly, in an effort to support your child’s learning, it is important that you have open communication with the school. We encourage you to read our Central Weekly (emailed to you each Monday) and access our school website for general information. Our website address is [www.central.sd61.bc.ca](http://www.central.sd61.bc.ca). As well, you could follow us on social media to see what’s happening daily here at school. We can be found on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/centralmiddlevictoria](http://www.facebook.com/centralmiddlevictoria) and on Twitter @centralspartan8. These will be great places to see what’s happening at school and to read interesting information pertaining to our school community.

For matters more specific to your child's program, you are welcome to contact your child’s advisory teacher via phone or email (may be found on our school website) or contact administration at 250.386.3591.

I have appreciate the kind messages of support as we start this very different year. We look forward to seeing our students soon.

Sincerely,

Gillian Braun

Gillian Braun- Principal Central Middle School