



David Oppenheimer Elementary School

2421 Scarboro Ave., Vancouver, BC, V5P 2L5

604-713-4570

<http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/oppenheimer>

Principal: Hope Sterling

OAA: Diane Dickson

PAC Co-Chairs: Esther Moreno and Suzanne Clarke

Director of Instruction: Padro da Silva

Trustee: Janet Fraser

September 2018 School Newsletter #1

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year at David Oppenheimer Elementary School. I am the new Principal of Oppenheimer. I have been an administrator for over 10 years now and I am very excited to be joining such a professional staff and vibrant community.

As the new Principal of Oppenheimer, I would like to extend a personal Welcome Back to our returning students and parents! ***To the families who are new to our school – we warmly welcome you and your family into our school community!***

Oppenheimer's Code of Conduct is **O.R.C.A.S.**, which stands for **Oppenheimer is a Respectful, Caring, and Safe School**. And with that, I welcome the opportunity to greet you and your children. Do feel free to drop by my office to say hello. However, if you would like to discuss anything, you will need to make an appointment to meet with me. I look forward to a cohesive and mutually respectful working relationship.

Snacks and lunch breaks - All students will have a snack, washroom & play break at 10:40 a.m. for 20 minutes. Lunch break is from 12:10 to 12:57 p.m. From 12:10 to 12:30, our Grades 2 & 3 students will eat in the lunchroom while the Intermediate students will eat in their classrooms. Once they finish eating, they will go outside to play with their friends. At 12:35, our Kindergarten & grade 1 students will come into the lunchroom to eat their lunch. This staggered lunch eating schedule allows our primary students some quiet time to eat their lunch.

Allergy Alert! Please note that our school is an allergy-aware school, which means that nuts and seafood should be excluded from our students' snacks and lunches. We have staff and students extremely allergic to these food products. Your respectful cooperation in this is greatly appreciated.

The staff and I are anxious and ready to begin our work with your children. ***May the year ahead bring us many positive and rewarding experiences! Let us all work together making our school a safe, caring and respectful learning environment for all our students to learn and enjoy.***

Sincerely,

Ms. Hope Sterling, Principal

Opening Week Schedule

Starting Wednesday, Sept 5th students in grade 1 to 7 will attend from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily. Kindergartens will follow their gradual entry schedules. Students are to report to last year's classroom for this week. New students will report to their assigned grade classroom. Once our registrations for this school year are confirmed, we will finalize our class list. When done, students will move into their 2018/2019 classes. We hope to have the students into their new class by the end of the week.

As for our new Kindergarten students, their teachers will meet them in the library during the first week in September. These students are on gradual entry during the first five days of school start up and regular school hours will resume as of the 6th day of school. Please consult the orientation package mailed out in July for detailed information.

Please consult the attached documents pertaining to our school

- School Calendar for 2018/2019
- School Code of Conduct (Chinese version available in the office)
- School Fees for 2018-2019 (more information to come on \$ collection date)

Pedestrian & Traffic Safety

Parents are to walk their children to school or park their car legally and walk their children onto the school grounds. Let's keep our students safe with all parents abiding by these rules.

Motorists are asked to respect the 30 km/hr speed limit signage around the school vicinity. Staff from the Vancouver City By-Law enforcement and the Vancouver Police Department will be enforcing it regularly throughout the school year. See attached traffic sign document.

Class Placement

It is the time of the year when staff at the school level start student placement. It is a very onerous task as the following factors will be considered when we place students into classes: academic progress, individual learning styles, peer relations, learning needs, a balance of gender, a balance of English Language Learners, previous year's placement, friendship as well as parent input. With so many variables to consider, we can not accommodate every request but please know we do our best to ensure your child will have a positive year. We appreciate your understanding.

As well, the placement of students into a combination class does not in any way reflect the academic ability of your child. For example, a child placed in a Grade 2/3 class **does not mean that the class is comprised of "advanced" Grade twos and "non-advanced" grade threes.** What it does mean is that with all the variables that have to be factored into each placement decision, the grade 2/3 class is balanced to ensure that each child is placed there to best meet his/her educational needs.

The teaching professionals at Oppenheimer will spend a great deal of time talking and reviewing students and their needs in this class placement activity. Furthermore, the information that you provide throughout the school year is most helpful as it gives us valuable supplementary information. The final decision, however, rests with the school and we need your support in this area, as our teachers do their best in placing children. As always, we will strive to create the best possible learning environment for your child.

We ask that you refrain from making a request for a specific teacher. As usual, classes will not be finalized until the end of the first week of September.

Monthly School Newsletter

Monthly, the school prepares a Newsletter to highlight our students' achievements, informs parents of the latest education developments, and announces upcoming events. A lot of time and energy go into the preparation of our monthly newsletter and I greatly appreciate it if parents would take time out of their busy schedule to read it. It is often emphasized in research that students' success in education is dependent on their parents' strong commitment and involvement. Hence, parents being informed of the school's activities and projects are one way of showing interest in their children's school life. For your information, you will be sent electronically our newsletter at the beginning of each month. However, if you have not yet provided us with your email address, then your child can pick up a copy at the office. If, by chance you did not get a copy, please obtain one from our school office or download it from our school website, <http://oppenheimer.vsb.bc.ca>. Watch for the October newsletter at the end of September. The school calendar and monthly newsletters will also be available on our school website.

School Hours & Bell Schedules

Ground Supervision Bell	8:40 am – Students may enter the building
Warning Bell	8:55 am – Primary students line up in undercover area and intermediates head to their classrooms.
Start Class	9:00 am – Students are ready to begin class
Recess start	10:40 pm – Time to eat a snack, go to the washroom and play!
Recess End	11:00 pm
Lunch Dismissal	12:10 pm – Primaries eat lunch and Intermediates play
Itinerant Bell	12:30 pm – Intermediates eat lunch and Primaries play
Lunch Warning Bell	12:57 pm
Resume Classes	1:00 pm – Students are ready to begin class
Dismiss Class	3:00 pm – All students should be picked up by 3:15 PM
End of Supervision Bell	3:20 pm – Students should all be heading home or in a program

September Dates to Remember

Wed, Sept 12th	Parent Advisory Council (PAC) + Annual General Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. in the Library (Free Child Minding Available) ** Social to follow at Romers Burger Bar!
Thurs, Sept 20th	Meet the Staff Night, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We will start in the gym.
Fri, Sept 21th	Professional Development Day – Students Do Not Attend School