



Peter Skene Ogden Secondary  
P.O. Box 910  
100 Mile House, B.C.  
V0K 2E0  
Phone: 250 395-2461  
Fax: 250 395-2649

## *Peter Skene Ogden Secondary School*

---

### **Peter Skene Ogden Secondary September 2020 Return to School**

Thanks very much for your patience while we reorganize our school to meet the Ministry of Education and public health requirements. We are looking forward to having students back in the building full time again!! The world is a very different place right now and the staff of Peter Skene Ogden is preparing to make this school year as “normal” as possible.

The way we do things have had to change to comply with Public Health measures to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and keep students, as well as the adults who work with them, as safe as possible. To see Peter Skene Ogden Secondary’s specific COVID-19 Safety Measures, Routines and Procedures, please click the link at the end of this document. In short, we have had to change our timetable and add specific safety procedures to meet the guideline requirements of public health.

#### **Health and Safety**

- Students will be required to wash their hands before loading buses at the end of the day and when they enter the school as well as before and after they eat their lunch.
- There will be hand sanitizing stations at every entrance and access to hand sanitizers in every room.
- Students and staff will have to wear masks while in public areas (like hallways, library, buses etc.) unless they are medically unable to do so.
- Students will be issued 2 reusable masks which will either be distributed by the bus drivers or at the office if the student does not ride a bus.
- Perhaps most importantly, if any stakeholders of PSO are sick they must stay home. Further to that, if any staff or students get sick during the day, they are going to be isolated and sent home immediately. Therefore, as a parent, you should be prepared to come and get your learner in the event of illness at school.
- Students will be oriented during the first 2 days as to the safety requirements and we will be actively engaged in reinforcing them at the school.

- Students will be asked to physically distance whenever possible and definitely if they are with a student from another learning group or cohort.
- If you need to come to the school to see a teacher or administration, please phone ahead to make an appointment. If you need to be in the school come to the office and abide by the requirements regarding physical distancing, masks, and proper hand hygiene. We will also be asking some questions regarding your visit and your contact information in the event there needs to be contact tracing.
- Health requirements are constantly being updated to reflect best practices and we will always error on the side of caution when it comes to student and staff safety.

There are many more health and safety provisions in the document on the school district and PSO's website. This document outlines cleaning schedules, transportation, the use of masks, physical barriers and many other things related to health and safety. The biggest resource we need to tap into however to maintain safety for all people at PSO are the students. They will need to commit to being and acting safe and to considering the needs of all people who work and attend PSO.

## **Education**

### **What is a 'Quarter' system?**

- Students are going to take two classes at a time, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, for one quarter of the school year.
- The classes are longer (about 2 hours 45 minutes) with lunch being at an earlier time (11:40).
- After that ten-week quarter is complete, all students will get two new classes. Classes are going to move more quickly than we are used to with attendance being at a premium since there will be a lot of material covered each day. The only exception to the length of the classes are the grade 8 electives. They will be approximately 6-7 weeks long.
- One of the main issues we are dealing with is with our Learning Assistance. There will be no block of learning assistance as in the old days. What will occur is students who have indicated a need for LA will be contacted by the LA teacher and support will be provided. This will occur either in class or by students being released by the classroom teacher to get assistance from the LA teacher in another location.
- The requirement to create Learning Groups has put a severe strain on our ability to offer all the classes we managed to offer as in previous years. PSO does not have the size to offer everything and we have had to restrict the elective offerings somewhat as a part of creating these learning groups.

### What is learning group you might ask (also called a 'cohort')

- Cohorts were created to curtail contact as much as possible for the safety of students and staff and to allow for contact tracing should a COVID outbreak occur.
- The limit for secondary schools is 120/cohort. Our school has no grade greater than 120 students.
- For grades 8-10, students will be with other students of their same grade for their classes, except for some specialty situations.
- Grade 11/12s have a wider degree of diversity in their requests and we have tried to accommodate them as best we can. In the case of grade 11/12 students, they will be grouped together with the same students for both a morning and afternoon class. The classes will change but for the most part the students will be with a smaller cohort than 120, usually around 60.
- Students can jump from one cohort in the morning class to another cohort in the afternoon class, if necessary. The requirement would be to make sure there is sufficient space for the student to physically distance within the class which is outside their learning group. If there is not sufficient space the student cannot enter.
- At lunch there is no requirement to stay in the learning group, provided the student physically distances and wears a mask.

### Distributed learning and the old 'hybrid' model.

- The format we worked under in the spring where there was a blended combination of in class and at homeschool is no longer an option. Teachers will be teaching in a classroom only. If you require your student to be home, then a Distributed Learning school is your option. For this school district Graduation Routes Other Ways is the DL school. Other DL schools in different districts are severely limited as other districts have restricted access to students outside their district while they wait to see DL demand within that district.
- There may be an opportunity for students to take a DL course while taking a PSO course. This will hold true based on conversations with the counsellors.
- Whether for one quarter or longer it is important to contact the school to see what options are available for online learning.

### When do students come back to PSO?

- September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> are to get staff up to speed regarding safety protocols and to get ready for students. Thursday, **September 10 will be the first day of school for students with surnames A – L. Students with surnames M – Z will come on Friday.** We need to have fewer students on site so we can effectively inform them about safety procedures throughout the day. Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> will be a full day for all students.

- Timetables are still in production as we hustle to program students into the new learning schedule. The goal is to have them available by the end of the first week of September through MYED for those who have logins and on the first day of classes for those who do not.

Thanks for attending to all the reading and for your patience as we try to transition to the new 'normal'. The PSO Return to School Plan and other useful documents is on the SD27 website and on our website at [peterskeneogden.ca](http://peterskeneogden.ca).

**Welcome back on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> for the A – Ls and Friday for everyone else.**

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Butcher', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Geoff Butcher

Principal PSO