



Welcome to École Doncaster School

Information for new families

The School Day

8:25 - Before school supervision begins (supervisors are located at the front entrance and the corner between the two playground areas)

8:40 - The school day begins (students line up at the door near their class)

10:22 to 10:42 - Recess

11:50 to 12:10 - Lunch (students eat in their classrooms)

12:10 to 12:47 - Recess is from

2:50 – The school day ends

3:05 – After school supervision ends (supervisors are located at the front entrance and the corner between the two playground areas)

- If your child comes late or leaves school early, please sign in or out at the office
- We ask that all volunteers sign in at the office

First Week

Kindergarten students

Parents and students will come to confirm their registration on Wednesday, September 5th at 9:00 a.m. in the gym. During Wednesday, September 5th and Thursday, September 6, Kindergarten teachers will meet with you and your child for a 15 minute interview to get to know you and your child. Interview times will be confirmed during the first week of July. On Friday, September 7th your child will attend a half day (either 9:30 to 11:30 or 1:00 to 2:50). These times will also be confirmed during the first week of July. The first full school day of school for Kindergarten students will be Monday, September 11th from 8:40 am until 2:50 pm. If you have any questions about the first week, please contact the office.

Grades 1 – 5 students

The first day of school for students is September, 4 from 9 to 11:30. The first full day of school is Wednesday, September 5. On the first day of school, returning students will go to their previous year line up. They will spend the week with the teacher and class they had for the 2017 – 2018 school year. All new students will meet in the library. New students will be placed with a class of their same grade for the first week. They will spend the first week with this class. Students in Grades 1 to 5 will move into their new classes once we confirm our enrollment numbers and class configurations (likely by the end of the first week).

School Supplies

School supply lists are available on our website <https://doncaster.sd61.bc.ca/student-info/supplies-2/>

Our PAC has organized a fundraiser where parents can purchase school supplies through Monks.

Information on ordering school supplies is on the PAC website

<https://doncasterpac.wordpress.com/fundraisers/school-supplies/>

Many primary teachers combine supplies including pencils and crayons at the students' tables. Please check with your child's teacher before labeling supplies.

Parking

Both the beginning and end of the day are very busy times at Doncaster and the streets there is a lot of traffic on the streets surrounding the school. To minimize traffic congestion, we encourage families to consider parking on one of the nearby side streets and then walk the block to school with their children. Often, this is faster than using the drop off area or parking on Rowan Street. If you are using the drive-through in front of the school, please move your car along in the drop-off area to the furthest open spot in line, then help your child to exit your vehicle as quickly and as safely as possible. Please do not park or leave your car in the drop of zone or the staff parking lot. For more information on best walking routes, please visit our website.

<https://doncaster.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/66/2013/10/Best-Routes-to-School-09-29-17.pdf>

Playground

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students will be gradually introduced to the playground during morning recess for the first full week of school with their teachers. Grade 5 leadership students will also help our Kindergarten students during play time. For more information please see our Kindergarten frequently asked questions.

All students

We have two playground areas where students can use equipment. One playground area is for our primary students and the other is for our intermediate students. We have a large field area where the students enjoy playing during the dryer months. During the winter months, please make sure your child has west-coast appropriate coats and footwear for the cold and the water. Students go outside for morning and lunch recess most days – we keep them in only when it is very wet. They need a good waterproof coat and warm, dry footwear.

Programs

Doncaster is a dual track school. We have both English and French Immersion programs. Students have opportunities to take part in music classes and our Grade 5 students have the option to learn to play a strings instrument (violin, viola, or cello). During their time at Doncaster, students will also have the opportunity to learn in our makerspace where students participate in design and engineering challenges. They also learn technology skills including movie making and coding. Many of our students from grades 3 to 5 enjoy taking part in school and district cross country and track events each year.

Calendar

Our year calendar is available on our website

<https://doncaster.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/66/2018/06/DPAC-Parent-Calendar-18-19.pdf>

Our Professional Development Days for the 2018 / 2019 school year will be:

September 17, October 19, November 23, January 21, February 15, April 12, May 17

Early Dismissal days for parent teacher conference's for the 2018 / 2019 school year will be:

October 24 and 25, March 13 and 14 (students will finish school at 11:50 on these days)

PAC Events

Our Parent Advisory Council is a way to be involved in our school community. They hold meetings at 7pm on the first Thursday of each month. All parents are welcome to attend. Our PAC organizes several fundraising and community events throughout the year including a welcome back BBQ, Halloween dance, Christmas Craft Fair, movie night, bingo night, Bike to school week, and a year-end picnic. For more information, please visit the website <https://doncasterpac.wordpress.com/> or email dpac.doncaster@gmail.com

Where to get information

Information is available on our website at <https://doncaster.sd61.bc.ca/>. We use email as a way of getting information to families. We send week ahead updates with important dates and our a link to our newsletter is also emailed to families. Please ensure that the office has your up to date email address and contact information. If you have any questions you can phone the school at 250 595 3611 or stop by the office.

Additional Supports

Your child's classroom teacher is able to provide you with information about your child's progress in their learning. We do have additional staff to support students including a school counsellor, English language learning teacher, inclusive learning teacher, and speech and language pathologist. If you have concerns and / or would like to discuss additional supports available for your child, please contact the Principal or Vice Principal.

Class Sizes and Placement

The following are the maximum class size for each grade level:

- Kindergarten: 19 or 20,
- Primary class (Grade 1 to 3): 21 or 22
- Grade 3 / 4 combined: 23 or 24
- Intermediate (Grade 4 to 5) combined: 25 or 26
- Intermediate Grade 4 to 5): 28 or 29

Each year, class teachers, our inclusive learning teachers, and our administrative team take great care and consideration when organizing students into classes. Our aim is to build diverse groups of learners who will learn well together. Class placements take into the account individual needs and must also take into consideration staffing allocations and contractual guidelines.

Our classes in both English and French programs at Doncaster consist of both single and combined grade classes. Combined classes consist of students in consecutive grades grouped together. They are created for both educational effectiveness and a school's organizational needs. They can provide opportunities for student leadership and promote social responsibility. For more information, please see our website <https://doncaster.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/66/2018/06/June-2018-Combined-Classes-Elementary.pdf>. If you have any questions about class placement, please contact the Principal or Vice Principal.

Curriculum and Reporting

BC's redesigned curriculum includes content (what students are expected to know), curricular competencies (what students are expected to do), and big ideas (what students are expected to understand). For more information please see the website at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

Teachers at Doncaster will use one of two reporting formats:

1. Freshgrade – an ongoing, online reporting tool. Teachers using this format will upload assessment information throughout the school year. Students in Grades 4 and 5 will also receive letter grades 3 times a year. Each teacher using Freshgrade will also provide parents with an end of year report
2. Report Cards – will be sent home in paper format 3 times per year (December, March, June)

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (250) 595-3611