



April 9, 2021

Dear Grade 5 Parents:

We are very excited to be welcoming our Grade 5 students to the Bayside family in the coming months! The transition to middle school is an important milestone and we are looking forward to beginning this new journey with you and your child. Given the current COVID-19 restrictions, the transition process will look different than in past years, but, as always, we will do our best to ensure a smooth transition for our newest students. Below you will find some important information about upcoming transition dates, our class building process and the sign-up process for Grade 6 Band.

Upcoming Gr. 5 Transition Dates

April 29th, 2021 - Gr. 5 Virtual Tour

We will send a "Welcome to Bayside" video for Gr. 5 classes to watch at school. The video will also be available on our website for students from other schools to access.

May 5th, 2021 - Virtual Gr. 5 Parent Night 6-7 pm (via MS Teams)

We will share a Teams invite with all Gr. 5 families. This will be a virtual opportunity to meet our administrative team, to see a virtual tour of the school and to ask any questions.

May 7th, 2021 - Deadline for Questions and Answers

We will invite Gr. 5 students to send questions to the school that they have about Bayside. Our current Bayside students will make a video to answer the questions that we will share when the Bayside team visits in May.

May 19-20th - Bayside F2F Visits to Gr. 5 Classrooms

A team from Bayside will visit each Gr. 5 class to meet the students and answer any questions.

Class Building and Parent Placement Requests for 2021-22

Regardless of what the transition process will look like this year, I want to reassure you that connecting with our Gr. 5 teachers and learning support staff at our elementary schools is a priority for us. We want to learn as much as we can about our new Gr. 6 students from the staff who know them best! The process for building our Gr. 6 classes begins with input from our Gr. 5 teachers. If you have input into your child's placement at Bayside, talking with your child's Gr. 5 teacher is the best place to start.

With the daunting task of placing 550 students into classes each year, our goal is always to create balanced classes that provide the best opportunity for student success. With so many

factors to consider, class building is a complex process. It is our belief that, by middle school, students should be open to forming new peer relationships and that it's important for students to develop the skills to work with a wide variety of peers beyond their current social circle. We want to help our students develop the resilience they need to thrive by teaching and encouraging flexible thinking and adaptability. We believe that our students are capable of working with and learning from the different personalities and styles of varying peers and teachers throughout their many years of schooling. Through such an approach, we are striving to meet our students' long-term needs as well as furthering Bayside's positive culture as an inclusive learning community built on our Bayside core values of curiosity, compassion and resilience.

Based on all of the above, we ask that parents **only make a class placement request in extraordinary situations warranting special consideration**. In such extraordinary cases, please send your request by email to Rae Dennett, Principal, at rdennett@saanichschools.ca by our **deadline of April 30th, 2021**, including:

1. Your child's name, current school and current teacher
2. The nature of your placement request
3. The extraordinary learning, social-emotional, and/or other needs warranting such special class placement consideration

We ask that you do not write to request a specific teacher - these requests will not be considered. Instead, please describe the type of learning environment that your child works best in. Please note that no requests are guaranteed, but your request and rationale will be considered during our class building process if submitted by April 30th.

Band at Bayside

If your child is interested in registering for Band at Bayside in Gr. 6, please complete the online Band form that will be available on our Bayside website on May 3rd. Gr. 6 Band Registration will open on **May 3rd at 8 am** and will close on **May 7th at 3 pm**. Placement in Band 6 will be on a first-come, first served basis until the Band 6 classes are full (and then we will start a waitlist). Students will alternate Band and PE throughout the school year. This is how the Band is structured at many middle schools, and although it is not perfect, it allows students to enjoy all the Fine Arts and Applied Skills (FAAS) opportunities that are available at middle school and have access to Band and PE as well.

Looking forward to meeting you and welcoming your child to the Bayside family.

Sincerely,

Rae Dennett

Rae Dennett, Principal

Kim Graves

Kim Graves, Vice Principal