

Welcome to Cheakamus Centre! We work hard to ensure each child has a comfortable and supported learning experience on the Outdoor School and Skw'une-was (longhouse) programs. Below are some of our guidelines and approaches that assist us in providing meaningful outdoor and indigenous educational experiences for every child.

### **Sleeping arrangements**

The social emotional well-being of each student is taken into consideration when organizing cabins and groups. Groupings are done in partnership with the classroom teacher and school staff and students are provided a voice in this process. Parents work with the teacher and Cheakamus Centre staff to ensure the needs of their children are met. This may include providing adaptations and supports for students with anxiety about sleeping away from home or with other nighttime concerns (ie., bed wetting, sleep walking, etc.).

Students and supporting adults on the Skw'une-was or longhouse program sleep on raised platforms in an open dorm-like setting. Students are grouped by mixed-gender Family Groups with a parent elder responsible for each group. Sleeping arrangements in the Outdoor School program are in cabins. The cabins are arranged by gender with high school counsellors providing overnight supervision.

### **Supervision**

For the longhouse program, parent volunteers supervise mixed-gender student groupings. For the Outdoor School program, high school counsellors supervise cabin groups. Each cabin is typically assigned two counsellors, who are selected based on the best leadership fit for the students in the cabin.

### **Privacy measures**

To ensure privacy in group living arrangements, several protocols are in place. Students are advised to change their clothes either in washrooms or in sleeping bags. Clear expectations are communicated around appropriate conduct in cabins and the longhouse, and there are always adults or counsellors present. Additionally, there are private washrooms in each cabin and gender neutral and accessible washrooms are available on-site.

### **Mobility and Accessibility**

Our site and facilities have been built and maintained with accessibility in mind, allowing for excellent access to buildings and outdoor learning spaces. This includes specialized equipment, such as elevators, lifts, all-terrain wheelchairs, and changing tables, to provide for a wide range of student needs.

### **Food**

Cheakamus Centre strives to be a leader in providing a nutritional and student-centred meal service. With approximately 15 per cent of our guests attending with dietary restrictions, we have developed a comprehensive food restriction and allergy response plan. Our meal service is designed to be inclusive, while looking out for the safety and overall experience of all our guests. And kids and adults love our food!

# Cheakamus Centre

## Information for parents

North Vancouver School District  
the natural place to learn<sup>®</sup>

### **Supporting Diverse Learners**

All students can benefit from the rich educational experiences offered at Cheakamus Centre. Program activities and accommodations have been designed to allow participants to engage to the best of their ability in a wide range of hands-on and community-based learning experiences. In addition, our experienced staff receive ongoing training in social-emotional supports, student transitions and diversity, and developing awareness around complex learning needs. Working with parents, teachers, support staff and school administrators to plan for and support each student ensures we are best able to meet the needs of all learners.