



May 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Re: [COVID-19 Information Bulletin](#)

As announced by the province today, our District will be returning to in-class instruction on a part-time basis beginning June 1, 2020. We want to emphasize this transition is a voluntary option for families; remote learning and support for students of essential service workers will continue. We continue to take direction from the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Office. As always, we are committed to the health and safety of our students, staff and families. We will continue to follow all guidelines and procedures advised by Dr. Bonnie Henry and WorkSafeBC, as we have been doing these last two months. Moving forward in the next few weeks, we will be working with our school staff to execute the province's plan. You can read about the province's plan in this comprehensive document [here](#).

We have all seen improvements in fighting COVID-19 in our province. It is important for families to know that we are returning to in-class instruction for the following reasons:

- The number of cases and impacts on BC's health is decreasing.
- Vulnerable students are the most impacted and need schools to be in session.
- Schools are a critical part of BC's Restart Plan.
- Restarting now sets the stage for September.

We know the next few weeks will be even more challenging for students, staff, and families. We understand this transition to a partial return to schools for all students across the District is causing some anxiety and stress. Some parents may feel they want to keep their children at home because of fear. We hear you. We support you. We want you to know, the option will be there when your family is ready. Our staff have been preparing for weeks developing and adopting health and safety plans and protocols in our schools. Our systems in place have proven to be successful in our schools. We look forward to continuing this momentum as we move to Stage 3, get prepared, and then welcome our students to in-class learning again.

Stage 3 Guiding Principles

I want to highlight our principles that guide us as we move forward:

1. Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students and families and all employees.
2. Provide services to support children of essential service workers.
3. Support to students who may need special assistance.
4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

Stage 3 Expectations

This table below outlines the minimum amount of in-class instruction expected in **Stage 3**.

Grade Level	Number of Days	Percent of Days
K-5	2 to 3 days per week	Approximately 50%
Grade 6-7	1 day per week	20%
Grade 8-12	1 day per week	20%

Information Gathering to Help Plan Stage 3

To help in our planning, the District will be gathering information from families next week. The District will be connecting with families to get a sense of how many students will be returning to in-class instruction. Please do your best to provide the necessary information by the deadline requested. We need your assistance to ensure we can continue to support all students and their families with health, safety, and educational needs.

We are constantly learning and will continue to share information with you. Prior to the implementation of Stage 3 we will be updating families with more information on May 22nd. We know families have a lot of questions. We request your patience as we work to find the answers.

Stage 4 Continues

This week our District welcomed more children of essential service workers. We are now supporting approximately 400 students district-wide. We thank all students, staff, and families for their help in making it a smooth transition. Next week, we are expanding in-person support for diverse learners. Our teachers and staff are continuing to provide remote learning as well offer health and safety supports.

As we head into the long weekend, please enjoy some downtime with your families. Thank you for your continued support. Stay safe and well!

Sincerely,



Gord Stewart
Superintendent of Schools