



June 25, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Re: COVID-19 Information Bulletin – FINAL 2019-20

As we officially end the school year, I want to reflect, share some final thoughts, and provide an update. We have travelled a long way in this new normal in education, but our journey is not over. As we pause for summer break, let us all take a moment to acknowledge and be proud of our collective effort in providing remote learning and in-person instruction for our students during this pandemic.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all administrators, teachers, and support staff for helping deliver our Continuity of Learning Plan and Restart Plan. Thank you to students for your hard work, perseverance, and flexibility. To parents/guardians, I am grateful for your compassion, patience, and support during these difficult months. We all faced challenges and I can say with confidence that we overcame many of them together. Please take the time in this last week to thank one another for a job well done.

Last week, we reached out to families to ask for feedback on the return to in-person instruction and overall, the responses collected were positive. This information will help us in our planning for September. Although staff will take vacation over the summer, I know many of us will be thinking of our students and how we will continue to provide excellent learning experiences in the new school year.

### **When will we find out the plan for September?**

We continue to take direction from the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Office. We are expecting to receive a final plan towards the end of August, two weeks before the start of the new school year and will be sending information home via schools at that time. As always, we will post the most up to date information available on the District website.

### **What we can share now about the plan for September?**

The province's goal is to have even more students in class in September, as long as it is safe to do so based on advice from the Provincial Health Officer. The province remains hopeful that all students K-12 will be able to return to full time in-person instruction for September however, it is possible we could start with Stage 3 (which is what we are experiencing now), Stage 2 (with all elementary students attending in-class instruction five days per week and secondary students in for two days per week), or Stage 1 (all students attending in-class instruction five days per week).

The Ministry of Education is providing parents with more information in a news release and letter distributed today, both of which are posted on our District website [here](#).

Please see the stages of the [Ministry of Education's K-12 Restart Plan](#) below for your reference.

**BC’s Education Restart Plan**

<b>STAGE 1</b> <b>School Density Targets</b> <b>K-12: 100%</b>	<b>STAGE 2</b> <b>School Density Targets</b> <b>K-7: 100%</b> <b>Grade 8-12: 40%</b>	<b>STAGE 3</b> <b>School Density Targets</b> <b>K-5: 50%</b> <b>Grade 6-12: 20%</b>	<b>STAGE 4</b> <b>School Density Targets</b> <b>K-12: 20%</b>	<b>STAGE 5</b> <b>School Density Targets</b> <b>K-12: 0%</b>
In-class instruction: K-12: 5 days per week	In-class instruction: K-7: 5 days per week Grade 8-12: 2 days per week <hr/> 5 days per week available for: ✓ Children of essential service workers ✓ Students with disabilities/ diverse abilities ✓ Students who require additional supports	In-class instruction: K-5: 2 to 3 days per week Grade 6-7: 1 day per week Grade 8-12: 1 day per week <hr/> 5 days per week available for: ✓ Children of essential service workers ✓ Students with disabilities/ diverse abilities ✓ Students who require additional supports	In-class instruction: K-12: Limited <hr/> 5 days per week available for: ✓ Children of essential service workers ✓ Students with disabilities/ diverse abilities ✓ Students who require additional supports	In-class instruction: K-12: None <hr/> Suspend all in-class instruction for all grades and students

As a District, we will be thoughtful and flexible in our planning, ensuring we will be able to accommodate a **September start in any of these three stages**. We also expect to be adaptable throughout the Fall, being prepared to move between stages, guided by the Ministry and Provincial Health Office. We recognize that all of these different stages have implications for health and safety protocols and transportation operations, and we will be monitoring and adjusting as needed.

**What can students/parents/guardians do to prepare for September?**

Please watch for an update in late August from the District which will help you and your family plan for a successful start. Take note of updates from your school closer to September.

Before we look ahead, let’s take a moment to look back. For many students this is a bittersweet end to elementary school and middle school. Our grads are also leaving secondary school. For all those transitioning, take time to remember all you have accomplished and all of the memories that have shaped your school experiences. We are here to support and celebrate together with you.

I want to wish everyone a healthy and safe summer. You all deserve a break and to spend quality time with your families. We hope you can rest, relax, and recharge over the next few months, and look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Sincerely,



Gord Stewart

Superintendent of Schools