

June 24, 2020

Dear Families,

I want to start this note by thanking each and every one of you for the support and flexibility you have shown throughout this very different school year. 2019/2020 certainly did not play out the way any of us thought it would and definitely not the way we had hoped it would, but together we've made it through; this is a testament to our collective resiliency and adaptability.

No group has shown more flexibility and understanding than our Graduating Class of 2020. To you, our graduates, we offer our congratulations on your tremendous efforts and achievements. We are very proud of you and you should be very proud of yourselves. We look forward to seeing where your paths lead.

For our new and returning students and families we want to share with you some key pieces of information about what school might look like in September.

- The District is planning for a variety of options under the [Ministry of Education's K-12 Education Re-start plan](#). Unfortunately, we will not know for sure which Stage September will be starting in until later in August. **Direction for September's restart stage will come from the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), Dr. Bonnie Henry, and the Minister of Education, Mr. Rob Fleming.**
- While we are hopeful to start at Stage 1, with a full return to regular in-class instruction, it is far more likely that we will begin in either Stage 2 or 3 with some level of blended in-class and remote learning occurring. Please **see the overview of each of the five stages.**
- Movement through the restart plan will be dependent upon what happens with COVID-19 over the summer and into the fall. **Families should expect the possibility of some movement forward and backward** through the stages depending on, and according to, further direction from the PHO.
- In the event that we are not able to return fully, under Stage 1, **families should anticipate a likely increase to academic requirements** (e.g. hours of instruction, etc.) from our current status. This may include expectations for student attendance under Stages 1, 2 and 3.

We know there is a lot of information here about possibilities that may be a little overwhelming. We would like to be able to say exactly what September will look like, but likely won't know until mid-to-late August. We will communicate with you as soon as we receive information from the PHO and the Ministry of Education.

Rest assured we will be working diligently over the summer months to ensure that we are ready to welcome your children back according to whichever stage we find ourselves in. Please ensure that your school has the correct email address and contact information to reach you. Information is also posted to the SD62 Website.

That brings me to summer break. I sincerely encourage you all to take advantage of this time to rest, relax and recharge. Everyone deserves this break and to take advantage of longer days, milder weather and even more family time. It is very important, however, that we heed the advice of Dr. Henry and continue our now normal processes around minding our health, keeping our distance and being safe and kind.

Thank you once again for being an integral part of the team educating our students. Our learning community is vast and strong and we are so happy that you are part of it.

Sincerely,

Scott Stinson, Superintendent of Schools