

May 25, 2020

Dear Families;

I would like to start by apologizing for the time it has taken getting this information to you. We have been working diligently to implement direction from the Ministry's Education Restart Plan and wanted to be able to provide you with as much information as possible.

I appreciate your patience, understanding and cooperation to that end and am pleased to share information around what the return to classrooms will look like. We have recently completed a Return to School Plan (containing the information below and more) as directed by the Ministry and it can be found on our website [at this link](#).

Grades 6 – 8:

- In the BC K-12 Education Re-Start Plan, districts have been instructed to move to stage 3 by June 1. The K-12 plan indicates that students may return to in-class instruction on a part-time voluntary basis and that the total enrolment in a middle school should not exceed 20% of normal.
- Starting next week students will be able to voluntarily attend school for full instructional days as follows:
 - Grade 6 – Monday
 - Grade 7 – Wednesday
 - Grade 8 – Friday
- We ask that families that have not already indicated that their child will be returning to please email the school and let them know so that we are able to plan appropriately.
- Children of essential service workers (ESW), up to age 12, will continue to be able to access school on all five instructional days during regular school hours. Please note that students may be grouped together under a single supervisor on days when voluntary, in-class instruction is not occurring at the school.
- Students with complex needs or vulnerabilities will be able to access school on all five instructional days. Plans for voluntary return of students with special needs should be done in collaboration with the student's case manager and the school-based team.
- Students, to a maximum of 20% of the class enrolment, will be organized in classrooms at the appropriate 2m physical distancing as described in the COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings, May 15, 2020 update:
 - "Adolescent children should physically distance themselves where possible when outside the family unit or household."
- Site-based Joint Occupational Health and Safety Teams have and will continue to meet to determine the best practices for student and staff movement throughout the school to maintain safe physical distancing limits, including which doors to access the building and traffic flow within the school.

For those families that have indicated a need for district bus transportation please note that health officials are recommending parents drive their children to school to the extent possible. The district transportation department is working on bus routing for those who indicated need. Transportation will be connecting with families directly before the end of this week.

It is important to note:

- Parents who are voluntarily returning their children to part-time, in-class instruction must do a daily assessment of their children for any health concerns and, if their child is sick, keep them home.
- In order to meet "density requirements" set out by the Ministry of Education, students may not be returning to their regular classroom teacher.

- For the week of May 25-29: Teachers will focus on supporting at-home learning Monday to Wednesday and then, on Thursday and Friday, their focus will shift to preparing their classrooms for the return of students on June 1.
- At this time, there is no direction from the Ministry of Education that would indicate an extension of the school year into the summer months, therefore, the school year will end as scheduled; June 25 for elementary and middle and June 19 for secondary.

I would like to thank you all once again for being great partners with us as we navigate the best way to educate your children in the ever-changing reality of this pandemic.

We are grateful for your support going forward as we plan to welcome students back to classrooms on a part-time basis.

Best Regards,

Scott Stinson
Superintendent of Schools