

Office of the Superintendent

Shelley Green - Superintendent

Friday, August 14, 2020

Dear parents/guardians:

Re: Planning for September Return to School

With the first week of school just four weeks away, we wish to provide you with an update on how the District is best preparing for **Stage 2 of the K-12 Education Restart Plan**. We understand there are many questions about maximizing in-class instruction for all students this September, and we want to keep families informed on the planning taking place.

Following the Ministry of Education's announcement in late July, Principals and Vice-Principals alongside Senior Leadership pivoted Spring planning for Fall, to extensive new planning for the 2020-2021 school year to align with the updated guidelines. Our District staff, school level teams, and education partners are collaborating to create models that align with the learning groups of 60 for Elementary and Middle, and 120 for Secondary.

We understand that many families are seeking detailed information about what schools will look like in September and how learning groups will be organized and scheduled. Please know that we are currently in the process of finalizing our plan to submit to the Ministry of Education for confirmation. Once our plan is approved we will be able to provide greater details for families. Please refer to the following timeline for a breakdown of the next steps:

August 10th – School Districts received reporting template from the Ministry

August 17th – Ministry releases updated K-12 operating guidelines for COVID-19

August 17th - 21st – Schools Districts submit their restart plans to the Ministry for approval

August 21st - 26th – Ministry reviews restart plans and confirms approach

August 26th – School Districts communicate their plans to families

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Education communicated a gradual restart to allow extra time to orient staff and prepare for students. Once the District's restart plan is confirmed by the Ministry, families will receive an updated schedule for their children to return to school for their first day back.

Please know how much we are looking forward to seeing all students return in September under the Ministry and Provincial Health Office guidance and our strict protocols. Staff is excited to return to in-class instruction in a safe and measured manner.

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

Until then, we hope you are able to enjoy the remainder of your summer. We look forward to welcoming students back to class by September 10th.

For more information in the interim please visit our District website: www.sd61.bc.ca, where we will continue to provide regular updates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shelley Green', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shelley Green
Superintendent of Schools

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One *Learning* Community

