

August 31, 2022

Dear Families,

We are excited to welcome new and returning students, staff and families this September. Over the summer months, the Board of Education and District staff have been busy planning and preparing for a successful 2022/23 school year.

We look forward to collaborating with families and community partners to support all of our students in reaching their greatest potential. As we head into the third year of our Strategic Plan, we will continue to focus on improving all students' personal and academic success. Our goal is to strengthen our system where all youth feel prepared and empowered to understand and pursue their passions after graduation.

Our team of professionals is deeply committed to creating inclusive and culturally responsive learning environments to help facilitate student engagement. We understand the importance of all students having a voice and seeing themselves in their learning as they build confidence and feel a sense of belonging in our schools.

Throughout this school year, our learning community will work to create equitable educational opportunities for all students. Learning is for life, and we are continuously exploring ways to grow and enhance learning opportunities for students and staff. When we work together with students, staff, parents and community, we are in a position where we can drive positive change.

As such, community connection and developing relationships with our families remain a top priority. Through the pandemic, we have learned that we all have essential roles in contributing to student success. With this in mind, we encourage our families to actively participate in district initiatives, such as annual engagements related to budget and capital projects that impact student learning. It is vital that we move forward together with students' best interests at the core of our decision-making.

In addition, we encourage families to vote in the upcoming municipal election for School Trustees. This is your opportunity to help shape the future of the Greater Victoria School District.

With a busy and exciting year before us, we would like to take this opportunity to remind families of the importance of key health and safety measures to reduce the transmission of illness in our buildings. We ask that families continue to conduct daily health checks and that students stay home when feeling sick. In addition, we strongly encourage vaccinations and boosters. To review all the health and safety protocols in our schools, please visit: [www.sd61.bc.ca/covid-19](http://www.sd61.bc.ca/covid-19).

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*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.*

I very much look forward to supporting all students on their educational journey, and continuing to build relationships with Rightsholders, families, community and educational partners this year. Wishing all families, a successful school start-up.

Sincerely,



Deb Whitten  
Superintendent

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One *Learning* Community

