



Bringing Learning to Life!

Vancouver Island North School District No. 85

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June 25, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the 2019-2020 school year draws to a close we are already looking to September and planning on what a return to school will look like. I know this is something that everyone has been thinking about over the past few weeks.

This letter is to inform you of the next steps we are planning under the guidance of the Ministry of Education and the Public Health Office.

The Ministry of Education has a 5 stage plan (summarized below) to move forward with education during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5
SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS 100%	SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS K-7: 100% Grade 8-12: 40%	SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS K-5: 50% Gr. 6-12: 20%	SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS K-12: 20%	SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS K-12: 0%
In-class instruction: K-12: 5 day per week	In-class instruction: K-7: 5 days per week Grade 8-12: 2 days per week ----- 5 days per week available for: ✓ Children of essential service workers ✓ Students with disabilities/ diverse abilities ✓ Students who require additional supports ----- Remote/online instruction: Balance of learning	In-class instruction: K-5: 2 to 3 days per week Gr. 6-7: 1 day per week Gr 8-12: 1 day per week ----- 5 days per week available for: ✓ Children of essential service workers ✓ Students with disabilities/ diverse abilities ✓ Students who require additional supports ----- Remote/online instruction: Parent/Guardian choice to return to in-class instruction optional Balance of learning	In-class instruction: K-12: Limited ----- 5 days per week available for: ✓ Children of essential service workers ✓ Students with disabilities/ diverse abilities ✓ Students who require additional supports ----- Remote/online instruction: K-12: Majority of all students	In-class instruction: K-12: None ----- Suspend all in-class instruction for all grades and students ----- Remote/online instruction: K-12: All Students

Currently we are in Stage 3 of the education re-start plan. As things progress in a positive way regarding Covid-19 we are expecting to be in Stage 1 in September.

Stage 1 is a return to full-time, in-class learning as part of the Province's Phase 3 plan to start getting the economy back in order. We will only be moving to Stage 1 of the Education re-start plan if it is safe to do so. The stages are flexible (either way). If Covid-19 cases are on the increase again then the Ministry of Education and The Public Health Office will be advising us to move back to Stage 2, 3, 4 or even 5 depending on the severity of any outbreaks.

We are ready for any eventuality. We have already moved from stage 5 where no one was at school, to stage 4 where we accommodated some essential service workers and vulnerable students to where we are at now - stage 3. Stage 3 in our district has seen a return to school for

approximately 25% of our students on a voluntary basis. Students returning to school has started to increase as confidence in our system has grown.

Parents, students and staff were anxious about stage 3 prior to us implementing it. Once they were back in the building they have been reassured that we have taken extra special precautions guided by Worksafe BC and the Canadian Centre for Disease Control to make sure that everyone was kept safe. We have sign in and out stations at doors to assist with tracking where people have been so that extra cleaning can occur afterwards, health screening performed prior to entering a building, plexi glass screens in offices and social distancing markers throughout buildings and school grounds as well as extra hand disinfection stations and extra custodial staff working frequently in the buildings and many other safety measures too.

Towards the end of August 2020 we will know more from the Ministry of Education and the Health Office if we are on track for a return to school full time. Your school Principal will be letting you know what stage we will be in prior to the beginning of School. If for some reason we are still in a different stage of return and your child cannot come back to school full time, your school Principal will communicate with you what days of the week (if relevant) your child will be welcomed back and what days to expect online or other types of learning. We won't know any sooner than this because as we know Covid-19 is unpredictable and there is global talk of a second wave. If that does occur we will adapt to suit the situation. Please do not contact your school to ask about what stage we are in prior to the last week of August.

For now and for September, social distancing and other measures will still be in effect in all school district buildings. If you are attending school with your child for any reason, please make sure only one adult from the family is in attendance and only by arrangement with the Principal. **Students, families and staff must not attend any building if they are sick.**

Please be assured that we are working closely with Public Health and Work Safe BC to ensure all of our buildings adhere to the BC Center for Disease Control guidelines. Health and safety protocols will continue to be in place to ensure the safety of our students, parents, Principals, Vice Principals, teachers and support staff. We will also continue to provide any updated information on our SD85 website to keep you informed of the latest developments.

If you haven't heard from us and have questions then please check our district website prior to sending your child back to school in September or contact your school in the last week of August for more information.

Thank you all for being so understanding. Thank you for supporting us while we try our best to support you and keep your children and our staff safe. By working together, being calm, kind and respectful we will come through this.

Have a wonderful safe summer break.

Yours faithfully,



Carol Robertson
Superintendent of Schools/CEO
School District 85 (Vancouver Island North)