



Bringing Learning to Life!

Vancouver Island North School District No. 85

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August 27, 2020

Dear Community Members,

Re: Students of Indigenous Ancestry

I hope you are having a restful summer and enjoying time with family.

I wanted to reach out and provide you with an update on SD85 back-to-school planning and express the school district's commitment to ensuring a safe and caring return to in-class instruction for Indigenous learners. I appreciate you have questions and concerns, and I feel it is important to share some information that you may find helpful.

As you are aware, the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) has deemed it safe and important for students across the province in grades K to 12 to return to in-class instruction. In planning for the safe return to school for our students and staff, SD85 is following the directives and guidance of the PHO and Ministry of Education, which are outlined in the Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings.

School District 85's Restart Plan is comprehensive. The school district has taken a thoughtful and deliberate approach to ensuring students learn in a safe environment where the risk of COVID-19 is minimized through the:

- Implementation of enhanced health and safety measures.
- Organization of students into cohorts or learning groups.
- Upgrading of our on-site facilities.

Your child's school is now working on operationalizing the Restart Plan and will be ready to welcome students back to school for orientation September 10 and full time September 11. Schools are organizing classrooms to allow in-class instruction to occur in a safe manner, and common areas to support physical distancing when students are outside the classroom.



The wisdom of our ancestors guides us

ABORIGINAL PROGRAMS

A priority in school planning is ensuring:

- Indigenous knowledge and perspectives are included through classroom instruction.
- Enrichment and support are provided to Indigenous students.
- The social emotional and learning benefits associated with in-class instruction are realized.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your school Principal or Vice Principal if you have any questions. You may find that some of your questions are answered on our school district and Ministry of Education web site.

We are excited and look forward to the return of in-class instruction and welcoming students and staff back to school in September.

Gilakas'la,



Irene Isaac
District Principal, Aboriginal Programs
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