



**MEDIA RELEASE: APRIL 14, 2020**

Mrs. Cathy van der Mark has accepted the position of Director of Instruction – Inclusive Education.

Mrs. van der Mark brings with her 30 years of experience in public education.

Currently on secondment to the Ministry of Education, van der Mark is responsible for a review of Policy and Practice in Inclusive Education across all 60 public school districts in British Columbia. She is tasked with developing an action plan for the Ministry of Education to provide support to districts as they continue to build capacity to support meaningful inclusion for all students.

Prior to her role with the Ministry, Mrs. van der Mark served as Assistant Superintendent and District Principal – Learner Support Services in SD No. 54. In three school districts, Mrs. van der Mark has served in a number of school and district leadership roles, including; Principal, Vice-Principal Student Support Services, and Special Education Consultant.

*“In all of my roles within the K-12 system and at the post-secondary level, I continue to believe in the strength of collaboration with staff and colleagues to engage in inquiry around outcome-based approaches, the incorporation of classroom-based assessments to inform instructional planning, and the implementation of research-based programs and practices to meet the needs of all students.” - Cathy van der Mark*

School District No. 54 Superintendent Mike McDiarmid says *“Cathy van der Mark is a highly organized, planned and thoughtful leader whose knowledge in special education is second to none. She is exceptional.”*

The District looks forward to welcoming Mrs. van der Mark to her new position in August 2020.

**CONTACT: HARJ MANHAS  
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