



Dear Families,

May 22, 2020

As we move towards the end of May in this unprecedented time, I want to thank you once again for your patience as we have worked through Phase 4, and expanded service to students as we prepare to move into Phase 3, June 1.

The Government of BC and the Health Authority have been clear that it is safe for a gradual return of students, and this thoughtful approach will be essential in helping our community stay calm, while preparing for (hopefully) a complete return in the Fall. The links below, provide outstanding information from the Health Authority and BC Government that outline how the decision has been arrived at and provides key information on children in schools.

Helpful Resources:

- [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Setting](#)
- [K-12 Education Restart Plan](#)
- [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Settings](#)

Currently, in Phase 4, our schools are providing expanded services to ESW families and a growing list of priority learners. It is remarkable how all sites have taken unique approaches to meet these needs. All of our sites have built or are building plans to integrate ESW children into their home schools as well as increasing numbers of priority learners as we build towards the June 1 date for Phase 3.

Government has set the following Phase 3 targets:

- K-5 (2-3 days/week)
- 6-7 (1 day/ week)
- 8-12 (1 day/week)

- ESW and priority learners 5 days/ week

While government allows for some regional differences and unique school solutions, we will pay close attention to ALL Health Authority guidelines. The District has spent time with partners (IUOE, CCTA, DPAC, FNEC, PVP) to develop health and safety protocols for the district and schools to limit risk and protect students and staff as the numbers in the buildings increase.

Schools will have consistent procedures with regards to site access, cleaning and hygiene and physical distancing. Their student schedule and delivery will vary. It is also important for parents to know that as attendance is voluntary for their child, the remote learning version will not be as robust as it has been, simply because we cannot expect teachers to do both. School administration will need to align their available staff in a way that best serves the students. This won't be perfect, but just as people adjusted to the initial suspension of service, I am confident we will do so again.

Your child's school will be in touch with specific schedules. Please contact the school directly if you have not heard from them regarding Phase 3.

“Learning, Growing and Belonging Together”



Our work in this phase will be critical in building our capacity for the future and critical in helping our families reengage. We continue to focus on the health, safety and wellness of all of our people—our employees, our students, and our communities.

Again, thank you for your amazing support and patience through this. I know this has been challenging and together we will make a better way forward. We are stronger together.
Sincerely,

Chris van der Mark
Superintendent of Schools