



June 24, 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians / Caregivers,

As the 2020-2021 school year draws to a close, I am struck by the gravity of all that has taken place and I know that this year will be etched in our minds for a very long time. As we look back, I first want to pause and send thoughts to the families that have lost a loved one to the COVID-19 pandemic. I know I speak for the entire district when I say that we are truly sorry for your loss, and wish you healing and peace.

The school district would like to sincerely thank parents, guardians and caregivers for your support, patience and caring as we worked through the challenges of the pandemic this past year. Looking back, we need to be proud that we were one of the few districts that focused on providing a 100% face-to-face instructional environment. We are grateful to teachers, support staff, administrators, managers and district office staff for their patience, kindness, flexibility and resilience, and for supporting students to enhance their academic success and social emotional wellness.

On June 17, the provincial government [announced](#) that we can expect to return to full-time in-class learning in September. Based on guidance from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, students will no longer be grouped into cohorts. Research has shown that schools were not significant sources of COVID-19 transmission and, with high vaccination rates throughout B.C., this measure will no longer be necessary. Students and staff will be required to complete daily health checks and stay home when feeling sick. Guidance on mask-wearing in school settings will be shared later this summer and will be in alignment with broader provincial direction. It is anticipated that restrictions on gatherings, extracurricular activities and sports will no longer be required when the new school year begins. Public health teams and school health officers will continue to closely monitor cases of COVID-19 in schools and the community, and will continue to provide support and guidance when schools return in the fall.

One of the very positive highlights this year was the development of our revised [Strategic Plan](#), which is laser focused and will guide our work for the next many years. I want to thank staff and district partners, including our parents/guardians/caregivers, for helping to co-create our new plan so that we can “hit the ground running” in September.

Finally, the pandemic has shaken the human foundation but also reminded us that, regardless of our differences, we are stronger together and can overcome any obstacles that we face. This past year has reminded us of the fragility of life, and the importance and beauty of the little things we too often take for granted – like hugging a loved one or a friend, sharing a meal with friends and family, or simply reaching out when your soul needs comforting. My wish for all of you this summer is that you can slow down and engage in life’s simple joys as the world starts to open around us. Here is wishing you a restful and joyful summer holiday and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Rohan Arul-pragasam
School Superintendent