



September 8, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we commence [orientation week](#), I want to provide you with an update as we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Thursday, September 10. On September 2, the district hosted a virtual town hall meeting to answer parent/guardian questions. We have themed the questions and have posted a [Q&A](#) on our district website. Please take some time to go through the Q&A, which will answer most of your questions on topics such as Health & Safety, Remote Learning Options, Catchment Schools, Students with Diverse Abilities and Bussing. If you have additional questions, please contact your student's schools and they will be able to provide clarity before your student(s) returns to school on Thursday.

Stage 2 Restart K-12 Options:

On August 31, the district posted information on our website regarding [Stage 2 Restart K-12 Education Options](#). The Chilliwack School District Stage 2 Restart Plan prioritizes full-time in-class instruction for students from Kindergarten through to Grade 12. This option has students safely returning to full-time in-class instruction with set cohorts/learning groups, physical distancing and mask protocols as outlined by the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control. Other options include a Learn from Home: Transition Support option for K-12 for those families that are looking for a gradual transition option for September and beyond, if required. This option may appeal to families who want a slower transition to fulltime in-classroom learning for their child.

Included in the document is also information on the [District Hybrid K-8 model](#). The Hybrid model is a full-time continuing blended learning program with two days face-to-face and three days of online instruction. The district also has its Hospital Homebound K-12 program to support families that are unable to have their student attend to due medical reasons. We encourage you to read our [District Plan](#) and the [Stage 2 Restart K-12 Education Options](#) plan to make an informed decision about your student's return to school on September 10. As indicated during our town hall meeting, school administration will be in touch with families that do not attend school during orientation week to ascertain their plans for the year and how we may best support them given their circumstances. These individual conversations will be critically important in helping us to identify and address individual family needs. Thank you for your patience with the process.

Transportation:

Bus passes are available for pick up at the Chilliwack School District Transportation Office until September 10. Any bus passes not picked up will be delivered to schools by Friday, September 11. If a student is unable to pick up their bus pass, they will be allowed to ride the bus. Please note that, as indicated previously, Middle and Secondary school students are required to wear a mask when riding the bus. Disposable masks will be available on the bus for students requiring a mask.

Further, while schools will be providing masks, we do not have an unlimited supply of masks and other PPE and request that parents provide masks as necessary for children.

Collective Responsibility:

The Ministry of Education, along with the BC Provincial Health Officer and BC Centre for Disease Control, has created a plan for a safe return to school under Stage 2. The plan has been designed to mitigate risks and, when we collectively follow the protocols, we can keep our city and schools safe. Let us all do our part by physically distancing when possible, wearing a mask when appropriate and washing our hands frequently. Parents/Guardians please utilize the screening [check-list](#) on the BC Centre for Disease Control prior to sending your student(s) to school each day.

These are indeed challenging times across our country. Although BC has done well in managing the pandemic, citizens in Chilliwack, like other cities across the country, have diverse political and emotional views regarding COVID-19. Regardless of our diverse opinions, let us create space in our hearts to hear one another and hear our stories as, in these times, connecting is a comfort we all cherish!

Although the September restart this year looks different from previous years, I am confident that students will quickly transition to the new health and safety norms, and settle into the routines of school and learning. We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to schools on September 10 and will ensure a successful school year, no matter what lies ahead with the pandemic. In closing, the Halq'eméylem phrase, *Lets' emó:t Lets'e Thále* refers to "working with one mind and one heart" no matter the challenges ahead. Together, as a school community, we will work as one to get through this pandemic and come out stronger at the end. Take care and have a great school year.

Sincerely,



Rohan Arul-pragasam
Interim School Superintendent