



School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

Board of Education of School District No. 71

2488 Idiens Way
Courtenay, BC
Fax (250) 334 5552
Telephone (250) 334 5500

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

I hope you've had some time to enjoy this summer and we are really looking forward to welcoming you back to school next week.

We'd like to take this opportunity to remind all parents/guardians about emergency protocols in place in School District 71. These protocols and procedures around significant threats involving our school community outline the necessary actions to be taken in various emergency situations or if there is a possible significant threat. Please see this detailed information about SD 71's Emergency Program in the provided document: [School Emergency Program Information \(PDF\)](#)

Comox Valley Schools has established district protocols for dealing with threats to members of the school community, and/or school facilities. When knowledge of a significant threat is made, each school's Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) will complete an appropriate threat level assessment for the specific incident. See this [Letter of Fair Notice](#) regarding the Violence Threat Risk Assessment protocols used by SD 71.

In the event of an emergency or adverse weather conditions, we advise parents/guardians to stay informed by checking SD 71's social media pages, website, and local media outlets for updates and information. It is very important to remember not to call or visit your child's school grounds during an emergency unless you have received notification from the school, the district, or the RCMP that it is safe to do so. SD 71 will share as much information as possible to keep you informed about emergencies.

For those who prefer text notifications, you can also opt-in to receive SMS updates regarding emergencies and weather-related school closures. Instructions on how to opt-in for SMS text messaging can be found in the document: [SMS Text Messaging Opt-In Instructions \(PDF\)](#)

Additionally, there is an optional app for parents/guardians to install on their mobile devices, enabling them to receive SD 71 emergency messages directly. Instructions on accessing the platform on the web, can be found in these documents: [SchoolMessenger Parent App Mobile Device \(PDF\)](#) [SchoolMessenger Parent App Website \(PDF\)](#)

I would also like to remind you about the changes for this school year regarding the use of personal digital devices (cell phones) in our facilities. Please see this [important information](#) about how the new provincial guidelines are being implemented by our schools. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to your school principal.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jeremy Morrow
Superintendent/CEO - Comox Valley Schools