

August 26, 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year. As we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year, we would like to extend a huge thank you to our custodial and maintenance department who, in our current environment, have been hard at work preparing our schools for the start of a new school year. We want to assure everyone that our schools are safe, welcoming, and ready for students.

On our website we refer you to the Return to School 2020 Banner where you will find a general explanation of our elementary and secondary return to school plans. We encourage you to review these and we ask you to visit your student's school for specific details as they pertain to that site. All schools restart plans will be posted on their website.

Our plan was developed following direction from the Ministry of Education and the guidelines developed by the Provincial Health Officer in close consultation with Island Health Authority and our educational partners.

While the majority of students will attend school and have face to face instruction some families may opt for home schooling or distance learning alternatives. At the Board Meeting on August 20, the Board of Education passed a resolution that if families opt for an alternative delivery model of education, DL or home schooling, that the students current spot be held at the school until September 2021-2022 school year. This will guarantee a place for the student to return for the next school year.

We would ask that if families are considering an alternative option to face to face learning, that they please connect with their current school principal to discuss their specific concerns. Families that choose an alternative delivery model and then decide to return their child to school may do so in consultation with the school principal at any point in the year.

Many additional questions have been compiled and prepared in a Frequently Ask Questions (FAQs) document that can be found on our website on a dedicated page, [Return to School 2020](#). These FAQs will continue to be updated as new information becomes available.

This web page is also populated with relevant and current information that has been provided by the BC government which has directed us in the development of our District specific plan, including [Operational Guidelines for School Districts and Independent Schools](#), the [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#), Comox Valley Schools [Health and Safety Reoccupancy Requirements and Protocols](#), and [WorkSafeBC education protocols](#).

Please take the time to review the plan and the supporting resource materials to make an informed decision on your child's education and contact your school principal if you are considering opting for homeschooling or DL.

We look forward to seeing everyone in our schools. Enjoy the rest of your summer break.

Respectfully,



Tom Demeo
Superintendent of Schools