

July 31, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I'm writing to provide an update on the recent provincial government announcement regarding the re-opening of schools in September. The Ministry of Education has released its province-wide plan to bring the great majority of students back into the classroom starting in September. We are looking forward to welcoming our students and staff back into our schools for the 2020-2021 school year in a safe and measured way.

For details of the government plan announced by Minister of Education Rob Fleming and Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, please see the links below:

[BC government Return to School Website](#)

[Ministry of Education K-12 Restart Plan](#)

District staff will continue to work through the summer as we analyze the Ministry Restart plan and prepare to welcome our students. There are a number of decisions to be made and we want to ensure that we take a thoughtful and careful approach. As always, our district remains committed to keeping the health and safety of our students, staff and families as our top priority. We will continue to take direction on these matters from provincial health experts and the Ministry of Education.

The provincial announcement included funding for school districts to enhance safety measures in our schools. These funds will be used for a variety of purposes including providing additional custodial staff and purchasing additional cleaning supplies and hand-washing stations where necessary. The Richmond Board of Education had already approved a significant increase to our custodial budget to enhance cleaning of all schools so we are confident that we will be ready to welcome our staff and students back into a safe and hygienic learning environment in September.

Understandably, you likely have many questions about what schools in Richmond are going to look like this fall. While we do not have all the answers at this time as the announcement has just been made, I want to reassure you that the Richmond School District will communicate with you as new information becomes available and as specific decisions are made prior to the start of the school year. You can anticipate hearing from us again in the middle of August, with a final plan for each school being prepared for August 26th. Additionally, as information becomes available, we will continue to post updates on our [website](#) and through social media.

While the district looks forward to welcoming our students back in the fall, I understand that for some, there may be some anxiety about returning to school. Please know that we will continue to navigate these challenges together with our focus remaining on the health safety and well-being of our community. As always, I thank you for your patience as we continue to navigate the latest direction from the provincial government.

In the meantime, I wish you and your loved ones a restful and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

Scott Robinson
Superintendent of Schools