



School District No. 51 (Boundary)

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September 3, 2020

Dear SD51 Families:

On Monday, August 31, letters were sent out to all homes from schools to apprise families of their Start-up Plans. A survey was also sent out asking 4 questions regarding return to school plans. Our impression is that most students will be returning.

We feel confident in our Restart Plan based on the direction of Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry. We agree with her words: "It is important for us to be able to have school, manage school, despite having a pandemic ... we can get through this and we will be working together to make sure that we have the things that are needed in place."

That said, there is still a feeling of uncertainty for some members of our communities as the first day of school approaches. Some parents do not feel comfortable having their children return to in-school learning and have indicated that they will go the route of Distance Learning or Homeschooling. Therefore, we have been able to reorganize and redeploy staff to Distance Learning (DL) instruction. **SD51 Distance Learning opportunities will start no sooner than September 21.**

If you are a parent who is not ready to have your child(ren) return to in-school learning and they are **not** presently signed up to a DL program, **we will do our best to accommodate them in the SD51 DL program.** Distance Learning will not be the same as the remote learning from April – June in 2020. It will not resemble the hybrid structure in June in which teachers were back in their classrooms while also facilitating learning for the students who chose to stay at home. The high schools are now on a 10-week quarter system and students enrolling in DL will be expected to follow this timeline (it will not be self paced).

It should be noted that Distance Learning will require significant support of parents and may not be suitable for all learners. An internet connection and a computer or tablet are required to do distance learning.

To enroll in SD51 DL you must contact your child's school principal.

Please note:

There will be set times for possible re-entry to in-school learning. *Re-entry will be conditional based on space availability and is not guaranteed.*

K-7 students enrolling in DL and wishing to return to in-school learning (bricks and mortar) during the year may *apply* at two natural breaks in the school year:

**After Christmas Break (must apply to elementary school by December 1st)

**After Spring Break (must apply to elementary school by March 2nd)

Gr. 8 – 12 students enrolling in DL and wishing to return to in-school learning (bricks and mortar) may apply and upon acceptance return at the beginning of each new quarter at GFSS or BCSS.

**Two weeks notice must be provided to return to in-school learning at GFSS/BCSS space permitting. There are no guarantees that students accepted to return to in-school learning will get certain courses.

Gr. 8 -- 12 DL learning options will be limited as we roll out DL in SD51. Our focus will be to prioritize course choices for the following:

1. Immunocompromised students
2. Grade 12 students
3. Other students

DL courses will align with the quarter system at GFSS and BCSS. The expectation is students will actively participate and complete course work in the prescribed timeframe. Final marks will be provided at end of each quarter.

I encourage you to read the SD51 Restart Plan which is posted on the District's website and on the website of your child's school. **Also your child's school Principal can review with you the Restart Plans ([SD51 COVID-19 Guidelines](#)) and describe what a typical day of in-school learning will look like.**

We are confident in our principals, teachers and support staff and we know our schools, communities and, most importantly, your children, are in good hands as we begin the 2020-2021 school year. We look forward to welcoming our staff and students back to our schools.

Sincerely,



Ken Minette
Superintendent, SD51

** Possible re-entry times. Parents must apply and late applicants may not be considered.