



School District No. 51 (Boundary)

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August 26, 2020

Dear Students, Families and Staff:

I am writing to update you on School District 51's back to school plan that has been approved by the Ministry of Education. The key aspects of the District's plan are:

Safety

- Parents are required to assess their children daily and cannot send their child to school if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Staff will also be monitoring themselves and their students for symptoms.
- Masks will be required for staff and secondary students in common areas and where physical distancing cannot occur outside of the student's learning group. Masks will be provided by the District.
- Cleaning procedures have been updated. The District has invested in upgraded equipment, including terminal cleaning machines for our 5 largest sites, to ensure effective sanitization of classrooms and common areas.
- Every classroom will have hand sanitizer or soap if the classroom has a sink.
- Ventilation systems have been modified to increase fresh air and to increase filtration where possible.
- Directional arrows have been installed on the floors at all sites and cohorts will generally enter through different exterior entrances.
- Visitors including parents are not allowed to come into the building unless they have an appointment or been invited to a meeting. Visitors should wear a mask.

Programming

- All students will attend school every day for the entire day and be grouped in learning groups.
- In elementary school there will be no more than 2 classes in a learning group and between 30-50 students/learning group.
- In high school there will be learning groups between 60 - 80 students. Students will be on a quarter system which is 2 courses every 10 weeks.

Busing

- We will return to pre-COVID-19 busing. We encourage parents to consider alternatives to busing if they are concerned about the number of students on a bus.
- All students must use hand sanitizer at the entrances to the buses before getting on the bus.
- **Students age 10-19 MUST wear a non-surgical mask when on the bus.** They must wear a mask. Two re-useable masks will be provided to each student 10 yrs and older on the first day riding the bus.
- Buses will load from back to front and unload from front to back. Seating will be designated.
- Check out <https://www.sd51.bc.ca/our-district/transportation/>

Education Alternatives to In-School Learning (Bricks and Mortar)

The Minister of Education has directed school districts to create in-class (bricks and mortar) learning opportunities for a maximum student return, and unlike June 2020, teachers will not be expected to provide remote learning opportunities. In SD51, we do not have a Distance Learning program.

Therefore, our ability to support students NOT returning to bricks and mortar learning is very limited. Our first priority will be to support students that cannot attend school because they are immune compromised (with confirmation of a Dr's note) as well as students in grade 10-12 that cannot get their courses to graduate due to COVID-19 timetable restructuring.

We will review our capacity to provide an online alternative for students *not* returning after our September start. If in-school enrollment is low, we may be able to free up teaching staff for an online alternative before the end of September. If in-school enrollment is high, it is *unlikely* we will be able to provide an alternative to in-school learning.

If your child will not be returning to bricks and mortar learning with SD51 in September, we recommend you register with one of the following alternatives:

- Register for Homeschooling - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/classroom-alternatives/homeschooling>
- Register for Distributed Learning - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/classroom-alternatives/online-distributed-learning>

SD51 Return to School Guidelines

Each school will follow the overarching [SD51 COVID-19 Guidelines](#). Each school will tweak it depending on each site's unique circumstances. Principals will communicate school start up specifics in a letter to parents by Monday, August 31st.

We recognize that some families and staff are feeling anxious about the return to school. Please be assured that safety has been and will continue to be the School District's number one priority. We will comply with all directions from the provincial and local health authorities.

If you would like more information about your child's school and how they have organized for a safe return in September, please contact your child's Principal. (firstname.lastname@sd51.bc.ca)

We are looking forward to welcoming our students and staff back to school in September.

Sincerely,



Ken Minette
Superintendent, SD51