

August 20, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am reaching out to you to provide a brief update regarding the re-opening of schools in September. I understand that many of you have questions about the [Ministry of Education's Back to School Plan](#) and what school will look and feel like in September. Although the district is currently involved in developing our back to school plan, I recognize that in times of uncertainty there is an appreciation for the sharing of information – even if all the details are not yet available.

As you likely are aware, the provincial government recently announced a slight modification to the opening week in September. Here is the complete [media announcement](#). The majority of **students will now begin a gradual restart to the school year on Thursday, September 10**. More detailed information about school re-opening, including class schedules and health and safety procedures, will be provided later in August.

The Ministry of Education has shared the following key dates with school districts:

- August 21 – school districts are required to submit their draft restart plans to the Ministry of Education for approval.
- August 26 – following Ministry approval, school districts are required to make their plans public and communicate directly with parents.
- September 8 – school staff will meet with their health and safety committee to receive instruction about how the updated health and safety guidelines, co-developed with the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Provincial Health Officer, will work in their school.
- **September 10 – students will be welcomed back to their schools for orientation.**

Our district's highest priority is the health and safety of our students, families, and staff. As such, we are focused on meeting the expectations of the provincial [health and safety guidelines](#). We understand that some parents have questions about sending their child(ren) to school and are wondering about alternative learning options that may be available. I want to assure parents that we will communicate the details of all program options as soon as the Ministry of Education approves our re-start plan. We will continue to share these updates through email as well as through our [district website](#) and social media.

I want to acknowledge that this continues to be an anxious time for many of you and I wish to make it clear that the Richmond School District will do our absolute best to provide a calm, welcoming, and safe return to school for your children. We are looking forward to seeing them in September. In the meantime, please continue to enjoy your summer with your loved ones.

Sincerely,



Scott Robinson
Superintendent of Schools