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August 31, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The last week has brought greater clarity from our Ministry of Education regarding the options available to families with our district's restart plan.

### **Option 1 - Return to Full-time In-class Instruction**

We continue to emphasize that we would like to have all our students return to full-time in-class instruction. You will have received a letter from your child's school describing the extensive health and safety plans as well as the cohort descriptions. The focus is to ensure student safety and maximize your child's learning and social and emotional health. While we continue to have one of the lowest Coronavirus infection rates in British Columbia, we recognize that there are still families concerned about returning to school. As a result, further options are available.

### **Option 2 - Transition Back to School Plan- K-12**

We recognize that some parents are waiting to determine how safe the transition back to school will be. These students will be given a home-based option with a certain level of in-school support. Your child will retain their school spot and receive the curriculum through print and/or online support. Students may receive an outline of the work required to complete and receive a check-in from a teacher and support staff member to determine how they are progressing. The intention of this option is to have students back in class. School staff will check in with families to see if re-entry is possible by early October. Students on this system should plan on returning to school by the end of November at the latest, assuming that we are still in stage 2.

### **Option 3 - On Line Learning Support for Grades 4-12**

Students requesting online learning will receive a curriculum through The Western Canadian Learning Network (WCLN). Although it is a WCLN designed course, the progress and the assessment will be completed or monitored by a classroom teacher from your local school. This is a prescribed curriculum from an external agency and will not be delivered by the school. Families must register at their local school. A teacher and/or support staff will check-in with students to assist them with their progress and provide support at scheduled times.

#### **Option 4- Homeschooling- K-12**

**Homeschooling** is an alternative method of teaching offered outside the B.C. educational system. Typically, a family member delivers the entire educational program to children at home. Homeschooling programs **are not**:

- Supervised by a B.C. certified teacher
- Required to meet provincial standards
- Inspected by the Ministry of Education

#### **Parents Should Consider...**

Homeschooling comes with great responsibility – choosing this option means parents must provide and supervise their child’s entire educational program, including curriculum and learning materials.

- [Find out about flexible learning options that lead to graduation](#)
- [Read the policy for homeschooled children](#)
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/classroom-alternatives/homeschooling>.

Homeschoolers are not supported from our school district in terms of curriculum delivery. We believe that **Option 1** is the best option for our students. However, if families are not yet comfortable returning to school, we would encourage you to choose **Option 2 or 3 over homeschooling** as we will have school staff to help guide you through the process. It also keeps you connected with your child's school.

We reiterate that the Ministry of Education and Public Health have made it clear that we want our students back in school. We continue to work hard with our school leaders to ensure that schools are ready to support our students.

Our schools will contact those parents who have indicated that they **will not be returning to school or those who are undecided** about returning to determine which option suits their family. Please expect to be contacted by Friday, September 3, so we plan our support systems accordingly.

We continue to keep the needs of our students, teachers, and families as our priority.

Sincerely yours,



Balan Moorthy  
Superintendent of Schools