



August 31, 2021

**Re: Start-up Information for the 2021-2022 School Year**

Dear parents/guardians,

This fall we look forward to welcoming students back for another year of learning and growth as our dedicated staff is committed to ensuring the most caring and engaging school experience for all our students.

While we all continue to live with the COVID-19 pandemic, the health and safety of our students and staff continues to be our top priority and our district will follow the health and safety measures outlined recently by the Minister of Education and provincial health officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

Like June, all students in grades 4-12, all K-12 staff, and visitors are required to wear a non-medical mask in all indoor areas, including at their desk and on school buses. This also applies to students in lower grades that share a class with grade 4 students. Kindergarten to grade 3 students are strongly encouraged to wear a mask though mask wearing for this age group remains a personal family/caregiver choice.

Daily health checks are still required for students and staff before they enter the school and anyone who is feeling unwell or displaying symptoms will need to stay home. We ask for your diligence and support in helping to prevent the spread of COVID. Families can use the K-12 health check app to answer a few simple questions and receive guidance on whether they can attend school or if they need to self-isolate and be tested. The app can be found at: <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca>

Regular hand hygiene will continue to be incorporated into the daily schedule, such as before and after lunch, before and after going to the library or using shared equipment, etc.

Students can look forward to the return of sports, extracurricular activities, school gatherings and events, in alignment with public health orders/guidelines. Students will also no longer be organized in learning groups/cohorts or have staggered breaks and arrival or dismissal times.

I appreciate that some will disagree with the safety measures, either considering them too restrictive or not restrictive enough, and that some families may still be feeling anxious. We continue to take health and safety direction from the provincial health officer, the Ministry of Education, and our local medical health officer.

Families also continue to have a choice of one of three options this school year: in-class instruction, distributed learning or homeschool. If you would like to consider one of these other options, please contact your child's school principal.

Should you choose to register your child for K-9 distributed learning (eBlend), it's important for parents to know that, unlike last year where one-time federal funding allowed for the hiring of additional staff and the creation of distributed learning classes at each school, eBlend will only be offered through Robron Centre.

If you choose to homeschool your child, you will need to register your child as a homeschooler before the start of the school year by contacting any one of our School District 72 school offices. Parents should consider a decision to enroll in distributed learning or homeschool as a year-long commitment and understand that space at their current school will not be guaranteed if they choose to return to in-class instruction.

Thank you for your patience as we work through the public health guidelines and for your ongoing cooperation in helping to ensure we have a safe and successful school year.

The school district website COVID-19 section ([www.sd72.bc.ca](http://www.sd72.bc.ca)) is kept up to date with all the latest information from the school district, Ministry of Education and provincial public health, as well as links to important resources. We will be updating our COVID-19 operational protocols before school start-up should you want more details.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy return to school on September 7.

Sincerely,



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Dr. Jeremy Morrow  
Superintendent of Schools

