



**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58 (NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN)**

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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August 26, 2020

Good Morning SD58 Parents and Guardians,

We are writing you this morning to follow up on our Friday email regarding September and the Stage 2 Restart Plan. We are pleased to inform you that our plan was approved by the Ministry of Education, and they have confirmed that the documents align with the requirements set out in the COVID-19 Operational Guidelines, including the specific health and safety measures.

Starting in September elementary and secondary schools will be opening with regular start and finish times Monday through Friday for both staff and students. Schools may be making adjustments to their daily schedule within those times in order to support health and safety guidelines. These details will be communicated to you by your Principal.

Due to the larger student population and the need to create cohort groups, the course scheduling for students and staff at Merritt Secondary School (MSS) has been changed to a quarterly system for grade 8 and 9 students and a singular course system for grade 10 to 12 students. All other secondary programs and schools will be maintaining their regular course schedule. More detailed information on this change at MSS will be provided at the school level.

We ask that parents read the Stage 2 support documents with particular attention being given to “the Exposure Control Plan” and “the Student Protocols”. These documents highlight the work that is being done to support health and safety for students and staff. Some examples of these items include:

- Daily health assessment requirements
- Cohort development and guidelines
- Physical distancing / Physical contact requirements and supports
- Increased hand sanitizing stations
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting
- Increased ventilation
- Mask requirements for secondary students and staff (masks will be provided to students and staff for use in high traffic areas and buses)

An important part of the Stage 2 Plan also includes the training that will take place during the Orientation Week. September 8th and 9th will provide the time necessary for all staff within the district to receive training specific to the Health and Safety documents. These two days will be followed up with orientation days on September 10th and 11th for students at which time they will be provided with health and safety training. Students can expect to begin with a partial day on Thursday and a full day on Friday. If you are a parent of a kindergarten you will be contacted by your school to schedule an interview with your teacher on September 10th, 11th or 14th.

Success for ALL Learners ~ Today and Tomorrow

The health and safety of students and staff is our number one priority and therefore we ask that you read the documents carefully and look for further information coming to you from your Principal that will describe school level details. We also encourage you to connect with your Principal if you have questions about any parts of the Restart Plan.

Stay well and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SMcN', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephen McNiven
Superintendent of Schools