



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

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 4100, 1550 Chapman Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, Phone: (250) 378-5161, Fax: (250) 378-6263

January 7, 2022

Good afternoon SD58 Parents, Families, and Guardians:

On Monday, January 10, 2022, we will be reopening schools and very happily welcoming your children back. We will be implementing the additional guidelines provided by both the Ministry of Education and Provincial Health Officer in order to make sure that the return to school is as safe as possible. This includes things such as:

- Masks for staff and students in grades K-12 in all indoor spaces and buses
- Daily Health Checks remaining in place for all SD58 Students and Staff
- Students and staff remaining home when exhibiting symptoms of Illness
- Maximizing available personal space
- Limiting visitors to school spaces
- Staggering transitions and breaks to minimize crowding

A complete list of orders is available at:

[k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines-addendum.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19/health-safety-guidelines-addendum.pdf)

In Princeton, Boil Water Advisories are in place for John Alison Elementary and Princeton Secondary Schools. In Merritt, we have relocated Diamond Vale Elementary, Merritt Central Elementary and Merritt Secondary School into alternate sites until school repairs are completed. Staff have been working hard to prepare for your child's return next week. School Principals will have clearly communicated the site for each grade and teacher class.

We have also been preparing for the possibility of any necessary functional closures that may arise as Omicron continues to move through the community. Closures could be caused by transportation shortages, custodial/maintenance shortages, as well as education shortages. We will be sharing more details as to what this looks like soon. If a functional closure is required, we will give you as much notice as is possible in order to ensure you can make the necessary arrangements for your children.

We look forward to welcoming students back next week and will send further information along as it becomes available. As always, if you or your children need any additional support during these very challenging times, please reach out to your school principal, District Principal of Student Support Services Jane Kempston at jkempston@365.sd58.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Stephen McNiven
Superintendent of Schools

Jameel Aziz
Assistant Superintendent