



# 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

September 1, 2023

Hello to all Parents and Families of School District 58:

We are so excited to welcome all of you and your children back to school after what we hope was a happy and restful summer. We know that many families are still facing considerable challenges and we are here to help in any way that we are able.

We are looking forward to once again ensuring that our Strategic Plan is guiding the work we do on behalf of your children: creating schools that are focused on all children finding meaning and purpose in what they are doing and learning, ensuring that all school community members feel appreciated and respected, and building genuine and meaningful connections.

These are some areas of focus that we would like to highlight for you:

The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the Equity Scan process will continue to move us forward as a learning community in ensuring that we are inclusive, respectful, and deeply connected to every student and family served by the district. It is our privilege to be a support for you in creating strong and healthy futures for your children.

[Education for reconciliation \(rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca\)](https://rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/)

[Aboriginal Education in BC: Equity in Action Project - YouTube](#)

British Columbia schools will be engaging fully in new reporting practices this year, and we believe that these changes will provide all of you with more information and feedback about how your children are progressing and moving forward in their learning.

[Parenting one pager \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://gov.bc.ca/)

All districts have been given funding to ensure food security for students this year. As this is a planning year, please watch for changes coming from your schools regarding their food programs and accessibility for all. We know that these are challenging economic times for many, so please don't hesitate to reach out to the Board Office, your school principal, or a teacher if you need support for your children. All requests will be kept confidential, and we will ensure that any student needing food gets it.

[School food programs get historic investment to help feed kids | BC Gov News](#)

Our District is committed to supporting your children's Mental Health, and as such, you can look forward to hearing more about "Open Parachute" and parent resources that will be made available to all of you. Please be on the lookout for these important resources coming your way!

[Open Parachute K-12 School Mental health Well-being programs](#)

*Success for ALL Learners ~ Today and Tomorrow*

We have been working hard to ensure that school teams are fully staffed and ready for your children to arrive on Tuesday. With the support of the Ministry of Education and Childcare, we have teachers who are ready to share all of their gifts and talents with you and your children, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to expand our school teams with teachers coming from ever increasingly varied backgrounds. We see this as an opportunity to increasingly diversify the people who have the privilege of working with and on behalf of you and your children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'SMN', followed by a horizontal line.

Stephen McNiven  
Superintendent of Schools