



SCHOOL DISTRICT No.69 (QUALICUM)

August 4, 2020

Thinking About the September Restart A Message to all SD69 Parents from Superintendent Keven Elder

Hello parents.

I'm sure you will have seen the new plans for our September 8 restart, as shared by Minister Fleming and Dr. Bonnie Henry on July 29. As stated in the media release, "Enhanced safety measures and additional resources will enable most students in grades K-12 to return to school on September 8, 2020, with full-time in-class learning as the province moves to Stage 2 of B.C.'s Education Restart Plan." Note that this is not the hybrid Stage 2 as shared in June. That model has been revised.

Within the newly minted Stage 2 "cohort" model, all students would be in attendance, with elementary students in cohorts not to exceed 60 (roughly two classes being able to intersect but with no contact with other students beyond that) and secondary students in cohorts not to exceed 120 (four or five classes at a time within the cohort but with no contact with other students beyond that). We know that there will be some exceptions as some students will not be able to attend school during COVID times. As students work within their cohorts, distancing will be expected to the extent possible, and COVID hygiene measures will be in place per directions from the health authorities.

The media release which accompanied the announcement is found here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0040-001415>. More information on the five stages, including stage 2, is found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school/five-stages-framework>.

Reorganizing schools for this Stage 2 restart will take some time. Our principals and vice-principals are starting that work this week. As we do this work, we know that what September 8 looks like will depend on many factors, including the COVID numbers through August as well as planning and negotiation that will continue at the provincial level and flow through to us in our school districts. While there are uncertainties, we are committed to creating the best possible environment for our students and staff based on the directions of the Provincial Health Officer, the Ministry of Education and our Board of Education.

We will be in touch again and will keep our school district website up to date as we move through the next few weeks. As always, please feel free to reach out with questions, feedback or suggestions. You can reach me at kelder@sd69.bc.ca.

Looking forward and preparing for what comes,

Keven Elder
Superintendent of Schools