



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 47 (POWELL RIVER)
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
4351 Ontario Avenue, Powell River, BC V8A 1V3
Telephone: 604 414 2600 Fax: 604 485 6435

August 21, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

I am reaching out to you as we approach the start of the 2020/2021 school year. I know you have many questions about how school will look in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff at School District 47 and your schools have been working hard to respond quickly to the changing situation and make plans as mandated by the Ministry of Education. We received the Ministry's operating guidelines on Monday, August 17th and despite the short window of time, we met with a variety of stakeholder groups for feedback on our plan and have submitted it to the Ministry today, Friday August 21st. We expect it will be approved by Wednesday, August 26th.

Both we, and the Ministry, recognize that our plans must be flexible to adjust to changing situations, either at the provincial or local level, and so we are looking forward to feedback from the wider community going forward. We will be releasing a Frequently Asked Questions document about the plan next week and will also be planning a virtual town hall meeting to discuss the restart plan with you prior to the start of school. This will take place on Wednesday, August 26th at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to send feedback on the plan or attend the virtual town hall meeting, please email info@sd47.bc.ca.

Key Aspects

Family Options

Elementary Schools

Secondary School

Students with Diverse Abilities/Disabilities

Student Transportation

Health and Safety

Additional Highlights

The Ministry of Education has laid out five stages that provide a framework for instructional delivery in the province during COVID-19. Currently, we are in Stage 2. This means that the learning group size for elementary schools is capped at 60 students and for secondary schools at 120 students. There are no density targets and schools will provide full-time instruction for students within the cohort limits, with self-directed learning as required.

While we anticipate and are preparing for movement between stages during the school year, the plan we have developed is specific to Stage 2.

Changes

- Learning groups will have their own entrances and exits to schools.
- Teachers and staff will be assigned to single learning groups or schools where possible and will use physical distance and personal protective equipment where not possible.
- Playgrounds and outside areas at K-7 schools will be marked to allow for more than one learning group to be outside yet remain separate.
- Grade 8 and 9 students will have full-year classes and learning groups, while Grade 10 to 12 students will be in a quarter system taking two courses (four terms) for ten weeks in learning groups.
- Lunch breaks will be staggered.
- High-touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected more frequently.
- School buses will have assigned seating and will load back to front. Students from grades 5-12 will be required to wear non-medical masks on the bus.

I encourage everyone to read the plan, make lists of questions, attend the virtual town hall, and provide any feedback to info@sd47.bc.ca. As mentioned, this plan is specific to Stage 2, however; we are currently making plans for transitioning into any other stage if necessary.

The School District is committed to helping students achieve academic success in whatever way the global situation requires us to respond, either through in-person teaching, virtual classrooms, or a combination of the two. We are also continuing to work to improve communication with different stakeholder groups, including students, families, staff, and the community in this time of change.

Stay healthy and be safe,



Dr. Jay Yule
Superintendent
Board of Education
School District 47 (Powell River)

JY/ac