



**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 47 (POWELL RIVER)**  
**4351 Ontario Avenue, Powell River, BC V8A 1V3**  
**Telephone: 604 485 6271 Fax: 604 485 6435**

May 26, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

**Re: Schools re-open June 1, 2020 to part-time in-class instruction**

I first would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through these unusual times. I am writing to you today, to clarify what we have planned for the rest of the school year, and provide you with as much information as is available. I hope this will help with your decision regarding sending your child(ren) back to school June 1<sup>st</sup> or, continue with remote learning, or both. Schools will re-open for in-class instruction commencing June 1, 2020 under the guidance of the Provincial Health Officer who has deemed it safe to do so with stringent preventative and safety measures. Sending students to school is voluntary as remote learning will continue. Re-opening of schools is part of the Provincial Restart Plan, which is a gradual resumption of social, educational, and economic activities. The restart plan includes a five-stage return to full in-class instruction in K-12. We are at Stage 3 at schools, guided by strict health and safety standards.

[Ministry of Education K-12 Education Restart Plan](#)

You should have received and completed our survey regarding your plan on sending your child(ren) to school on a part-time schedule beginning the week of June 1st. Elementary parent responses to date indicate 41% of students will be returning to school. Secondary school data has not been confirmed. We are also asking families who normally take the bus in elementary school, if they will need to use this service. A recommended option is to transport students yourselves, if possible. Secondary students who cannot arrange transportation should contact their school. Schools will continue to offer full time support to students of essential services workers who cannot find childcare, and to vulnerable students who require full time in-class supports. Please see our attached question and answer sheet – also linked below. We have also included a link to the Ministry of Education questions and answers.

Elementary students in grades K-7 will be able to attend in-person half days Monday to Thursday. Grades K-3 will attend mornings from 9:00 am - 11:30 am and grades 4-7 will attend in the afternoons from 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm. Grades 8-12 will be able to attend in-person five hours per week (one day per week). The learning arrangements will ensure that groupings do not exceed the Ministry density targets for our school populations. In all cases, we ask that parents and guardians do not enter the school site so that we can keep the number of persons on site at a safe level. Meetings over the phone may be arranged in advance by contacting the school.

As the transition to part time in school instruction occurs, the health and safety of students, staff, and families is the highest priority.

Safety measures will include but are not limited to:

- Limiting the number of students in schools at one time to support physical distancing and/or reduce physical contact.
- Staggering lunch breaks, recess, pick-up and drop-off times.

- A review of available spaces in schools to adjust things like hallway flow, and the number and sizes of groups congregating in common areas.
- Rigorous cleaning schedules for high-contact surfaces, and a daily deep cleaning of school buildings.
- An increase in the number of hand sanitizing and cleaning stations.
- A requirement for parents, students, and staff members to do a daily self-assessment for symptoms of COVID-19, influenza, and the common cold and to stay home if any symptoms, however mild, are identified.
- Ensuring bus transportation is safe by having one child per seat unless children are from the same household, and maintaining a safe, physical distance between the driver and passengers, which in some cases, may include a barrier.

Our District is committed to ensuring continuity of learning for all students:

- Supports will continue to be in place for the social and emotional well-being of all students and staff.
- Our centralized meals program will continue to operate.
- Our playgrounds and fields will be re-opening under the guidance of our Provincial Health Officer.
- Remote learning will continue as parents make a choice to voluntarily send children to school. Parents do not have to make a choice between in school or remote, both modalities of learning will continue.
- We will continue to post updates on our website: <https://www.sd47.bc.ca>

Please see the links below for additional information:

[School District 47 Questions and Answers – Return to In-Class Instruction June 1, 2020](#)  
[Ministry of Education K-12 Education Restart Plan](#)  
[COVID-10 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings Safe & Healthy Schools](#)  
[WorkSafeBC COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)  
[Ministry of Education Frequently Asked Questions](#)  
[COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#)

We are taking a cautious, measured approach, under the direction of our Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry. We ask that if you have not registered to return to school and change your mind, to please contact your school principal prior to returning so we can plan and arrange for the safe return of your child.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we all work through this together. I would like to leave you with this parting piece of advice from our elementary music teachers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ooxvuVvKOgk&feature=youtu.be>

Stay safe and stay healthy,



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