



August 28, 2015

Ref: 183825

Dear Parents:

Our world is changing, and parents like you know it is essential to prepare students for success. This means connecting every single child with the basics like reading, writing and arithmetic while ensuring they learn the collaboration, critical thinking and communications skills needed in university, college, the workforce, and the broader community.

Your goal is our goal – ensuring your child gets the education they need to be successful, now and in the future. That’s why this fall we will start our three-year plan to transition to a new curriculum – the plan that maps out what teachers teach and what students are expected to learn.

We have been working together with more than 100 BC teachers over the past three years to refine BC’s curriculum. Our work has been based on world-leading research and successful classroom programs from across the globe.

At the heart of the change is personalized learning, which gives students the opportunity to learn the basics while pursuing their own interests and passions. This could mean exploring nature close to the school to learn about the survival needs of plants and animals for biology, a project on the history of hockey, or building furniture in math class to learn about angles.

Starting this fall, we will begin the three-year process of transitioning to the new curriculum. We’re starting with Kindergarten to Grade 9. Teachers in those grades will have the ability to use the new curriculum this coming year before it is fully implemented in all schools in September 2016. Your school will know how much your child’s teachers will be using the new K-9 curriculum this fall, and will be able to work with you through the transition.

Your child’s success is our top priority. That’s why teachers, school administrators and my Ministry are committed to working together to make sure our education system and our students are ready to succeed in our changing world.

We’re building on one of the world’s most successful school systems, with student performance currently making BC one of the top three education systems in the world. We are able to do this thanks to the ongoing collaboration with teachers from all corners of our province, and the efforts teachers make in classroom each and every day.

.../2

We will provide regular updates as this exciting transition continues. You play a key role in your child's learning journey, and we look forward to the road ahead. For more information, please visit: www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca or email us at curriculum@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernier", with a small dot at the end.

Mike Bernier
Minister