



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

“To empower all learners to live the challenges of a diverse and changing world.”

PO Box 758
Smithers, BC
VOJ 2N0
Ph (250) 877-6820
Fax (250) 877-6835

August 17th, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and SD 54 Employees,

As you may have already heard, the Government has made some changes to the dates of our return to school that we had previously communicated. Please see below for new dates and the information that we shared earlier.

Updated information

School District No. 54 staff will report to their schools on Tuesday, Sept. 8 for safety orientations and planning sessions. Groups of students will begin attending school on Thursday, Sept. 10 for their welcoming and safety orientation sessions. Over the Thursday and Friday all students will be invited by their school to attend an orientation on one of these days. The school will communicate with parents about what orientation time their children have. Graduated entry for Kindergarten will still occur in its usual manner.

Previous communicated information

Recently Dr. Bonnie Henry and Education Minister Rob Fleming announced a plan that enables Kindergarten through Grade 12 students to return to school in September, with full-time in-class learning, as the province moves to Stage 2 of British Columbia’s Education Restart Plan.

In this stage, students can expect regular face-to-face instruction. Minister Fleming also indicated that in Stage 2 students will be assigned to learning groups. These smaller cohorts (60 for elementary/middle schools and 120 for secondary schools) will reduce the number of in-person, close interactions a student or staff member has in their school without requiring physical distancing or limiting their educational options.

Please visit the Ministry of Education public website which contains more details on the stages of return and information on learning groups:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

School District Staff are currently updating our health and safety guidelines and our return to school plan to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Office. During this process, District Staff will be consulting with Principals and Vice-Principals, Teacher and Support Staff employee groups and First Nation partners. We will also rely on our

experience and feedback we received from our staged return to class that we experienced in May and June of last school year.

When our plans receive Ministry approval we will make them available to the public on or before August 26th.

Sincerely,

Mike McDiarmid
Superintendent of Schools