



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

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

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May 19, 2020

RE: COVID - 19 Update # 6

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Ministry of Education, under the guidance of the Provincial Health Officer, have a Five Stage Plan for schools to return to classroom learning. Our District is currently functioning at Stage 4 of the plan where regular classroom instruction is suspended for most students. In the next few weeks, we have been advised to move our schools to Stage 3 by June 1st.

According to the Ministry of Education plan, Stage 3 includes in-class learning for Kindergarten to grade 5 on a part-time basis (2-3) days per week and grades 6 to 12 on a one day per week basis. Our elementary schools are configured k-7 and our plan for a limited return will reflect that. As students and parents would have already noticed, this stage is not a return to regular classroom instruction. Students in attendance will be working with teachers in smaller groups and both students and staff will be respecting all social distancing guidelines. Students do not have to attend classroom instruction that is offered, this is voluntary.

Our first steps moving to Stage 3 for students began on Tuesday, May 19th. Some elementary students have been invited by their teacher to school for a regular school day twice a week. Distance learning activities will be provided for students for the other days where at home learning will continue. While these children will be provided with some assignments and activities to continue their work at home, instructional support will not be to the same degree as the full remote learning opportunities that students received previously.

Our Secondary students will be provided an opportunity to attend in-person one day a week starting on June 1st. The District is working closely with our secondary schools to decide on a schedule. You will be hearing from your secondary school soon about what this schedule will look like. Just like the Elementary program, students do not have to attend classroom instruction that is offered, this is voluntary.

Remote and online learning will continue for secondary students for the other days they are not in-person- essentially, this will be a blended model.

Parents can be assured that school sites are safe and highly sterilized. Students attending school will begin their learning with information about physical distancing, hand washing and other protocols to keep themselves and their contacts safe during this time of COVID-19. The School District will be following all guidelines provided to us from the various government agencies.

Safety begins by ensuring that those exhibiting symptoms stay home so as not to spread any viruses. Students with fever, dry cough, aches and pains, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea should stay home. Students exhibiting symptoms at school will be isolated and parents or guardians will be called to take them home.

Regular school bus transportation of students remains suspended at the moment. The District is waiting on more specific guidelines and safety protocols before resuming some level of regular service. If transporting your child to school for their in-class session is a challenge, please contact your school Principal to explore other options.

Take care and stay well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. McDiarmid". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Mike McDiarmid
Superintendent of Schools
School District #54 (Bulkley Valley)