



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 8, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

RE: COVID - 19 Update # 5

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 given permission to move our schools to Stage 3.

Stage 3 includes in-class learning for Kindergarten to grade 5 on a part-time basis and access to in-class learning as needed for grades 6 to 12 on a part-time basis. This stage is not a return to regular classroom instruction. Students will be working with teachers in smaller groups and both students and staff will be respecting all social distancing guidelines. During this stage, remote and online learning will continue to be available to all students. Students do not have to attend classroom instruction that is offered, this is voluntary.

Under the previous conditions some of our staff have been working remotely but going forward, all staff will be returning to schools starting May 13th. The staff will be on site in order to prepare for additional students attending after Victoria Day.

Stage 3 for students will begin on Tuesday, May 19th. Students will be 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.

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.

During this stage, regular school bus transportation of students remains suspended. If transporting your child to school for their in-class session is a challenge, please contact your school Principal to explore other options.

Parents who choose to keep their children at home during this time may make that choice. While these children will be provided with some assignments to continue their work at home, such planning will not be to the same degree as for those children attending schools.

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 initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

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