

August 26, 2020

Dear Families, Students, and Staff,

As we prepare to welcome students back in September, I am writing to share with you our return to school plans. Now that our plans have been approved by the Ministry of Education, I would like to share some next steps and information we will need to gather from families.

: Our top priority is the health and safety of students and staff. We are actively implementing provincial health and safety guidelines and protocols. [Learn more about health and safety measures.](#)

: Our plans reflect the Ministry of Education direction to all districts to maximize in-class learning for all students at this time ([Stage 2](#)).

District staff will be providing a public briefing on the full plans at a Special Board Meeting today at 4pm. [Learn more.](#) Presentations will be posted on the website as soon as possible, following the meeting.

: All of the information contained in this letter is also available on the District website, www.burnabyschools.ca, where we will continue to post updates.

: Students will attend full days with multiple measures taken to reduce the number of close interactions and contacts. [See the plan summary here.](#)

: All grades will attend school every day, taking two classes each quarter for a total of eight classes over the school year. Those in Grades 10, 11 and 12 will attend one class in person daily and have a second class involving a mix of online and in-school learning. Multiple measures will be taken to reduce the number of close interactions and contacts. [See the plan summary here.](#)

Learning group sizes are often well below the allowable maximum.

The learning groups reduce the number of interactions between students and staff, as well as feelings of isolation through increased peer support and connection.

Maximum class elective choice is maintained to the greatest extent possible.

Learning is integrated, with elementary and secondary plans inclusive of students with special needs. It's important to note that families of children with special needs will also be contacted directly by their school.

Valuable input from our partners, as well as information gathered from parents, students and staff in the survey in June – including feedback on feelings of connectedness, consistency of scheduling and workload – helped to inform our plans.

Should the pandemic stage change, our plans are easily adaptable.

Your school will contact you the week of August 31 with further details about gradual entry for health and safety orientations, schedules and other information, such as gradual entry to Kindergarten. Learning groups will be shared during orientation week, beginning September 10.

While we are planning for most students to return to full time in-class instruction, in order to properly organize learning groups and arrange other details,

. We will be asking that you indicate your decision about sending your child to school. We have continued to refine our plans and provide inclusive options for families, including for those with

concerns about someone who is immunocompromised or has underlying medical issues. [Learn more about options here.](#)

I know that many of you are excited about coming back into school, and I also appreciate that some of you are feeling anxious about returning. Please be assured that we are here to support you in any way we can. As challenges arise, we will work together to solve them.

To say that COVID-19 has brought disruption to our lives would certainly be an understatement. While the impact of

