



## **Media Release**

**August 31, 2021**

### Return to School Plan

SD 52 is pleased to announce that all of our schools will be open for in-person instruction next week. Schools will open for students on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. Elementary school students in grades 1 to 5 will start school from 10 am to 12 pm on Tuesday, September 7, with regular fulltime classes resuming on Wednesday, September 8. Starting dates and times for students at Pacific Coast School, Charles Hays Secondary School, and Prince Rupert Middle School are posted on the school and school district websites. Families of Kindergarten students will be notified of start dates and times by their individual schools.

The provincial health officer and the Ministry of Education recently released the new COVID-19 guidelines. The district has posted a document called [Back to School Communicable Disease Plan](#) in accordance with the Ministry of Education guidelines. The plan will be updated as provincial health orders and directives from the Ministry of Education change.

Starting on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 all students and staff will be required to wear non-medical masks or face shields in indoor areas of schools and on school buses. Kindergarten to Grade 3 students are not required to wear masks however the Ministry of Education guidelines encourages all students to wear masks.

Superintendent of Schools Andrew Samoil is pleased that field trips and school sports can resume as long as the new guidelines are followed. Samoil says "We know that students will be excited to return to in-person learning and resuming music, drama, and sporting activities". Although the pandemic may continue the district is taking all of the COVID-19 precautions to reduce the risk of transmission. The district also recognizes the assistance and cooperation of families during these challenging times. It is important for us to continue to work together to reduce the risks for our students and staff and the community at large.



Daily cleaning and disinfecting protocols will continue for all schools along with daily health checks, hand hygiene, and increased ventilation. Learning cohorts and the physical distancing rule of two metres is no longer recommended by public health officials however a number of strategies will be used to create space between people in support of students and staff returning back to school.

Schools will differ in some aspects of the return to school plans due to differences in school building layouts and the ages of students. Parents and students will be informed directly by their respective school principals and teachers of any changes in the guidelines.

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