



650 KAWKAWA LAKE ROAD
HOPE, B.C.
VOX 1L4

Phone (604) 869-2411 (Hope residents)
Phone (604) 796-2225 (Agassiz residents)
Fax (604) 869-7400
www.sd78.bc.ca

May 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff, Educational Partners and Community Members:

Re: K-12 students to have optional in-class instruction on June 1, 2020

I am writing to provide an update on the announcement made earlier today (May 15, 2020) by the Minister of Education, indicating that parents have the choice of bringing their children back to class on a part-time basis on June 1, 2020, with the goal of returning to full-time classes in September 2020, provided it is safe to do so (<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0026-000890>).

The decision for students to return to school on a part-time basis was based on scientific evidence and direction from the Public Health Officer. The re-entry process will be gradual, with health and safety being the top priority every step of the way.

In order to ensure that schools are safe for students and staff, the number of students in each school will be reduced. Kindergarten to Grade 5 students will attend part-time, while grades 6 to 12 will go to school approximately one day per week. Children of essential service workers and students requiring additional supports will have the option of attending school on a full-time basis. Families that decide not to send their children to class may continue learning from home.

The news release provided today outlines a number of key expectations for school districts. School Districts are expected to:

- Ensure that schools are safe for the return of students and staff by implementing strict provincial health and WorkSafeBC guidelines and safety measures
- Develop Return-to-Class Safety plans which must be approved by the Ministry of Education
- Determine scheduling for classes and transportation arrangements
- Contact families by May 22, 2020 to make arrangements for children to return to class

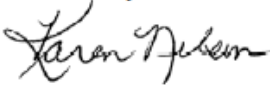
Our school district has already begun some of the initial planning to address the return of students to in-class learning. I wish to take this opportunity to thank our administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, educational partners and community members for all of the work that has been done, and will continue to be done in order to provide the best possible learning opportunities for our students.

We will continue to provide updated information on our district website: www.sd78.bc.ca.

I understand that these continue to be challenging and uncertain times, particularly as we move toward creating our “new normal”. As stated by Dr. Bonnie Henry, “Reopening of our schools to in-class learning is an important step. It will look different, but will be done in a way that is safe for everyone. I want to assure all the staff, students and families that we will face the challenges that come with this transition together – and we will do it in a measured and thoughtful way.”

Once again, I wish to thank each of you for your patience and understanding during this time. I am confident that we will get through this together.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Nelson, EdD
Superintendent of Schools

cc. Principals and Vice Principals