

May 15th, 2020

Dear Abbotsford School District families,

As BC moves toward easing the restrictions that have impacted all of our lives, schools are a key part of the provincial government's [Restart Plan](#). Both the Premier and Provincial Health Officer have indicated that BC's path forward involves a careful step-by-step process which puts the safety and well-being of children as a priority.

### **The Provincial Plan**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, the Ministry of Education announced that all schools in the province will move to "Stage 3" of the Education Restart Plan effective June 1, 2020. This gradual re-entry process involves:

- Children in grades K-5 attending two to three days per week;
- Children in grades 6-12 attending one day per week;
- Children of essential service workers and students with vulnerabilities attending five days per week; and
- Remote and online learning continuing for all students.

The provincial government has indicated that this will not be a return to normal in schools. We respect and understand that the needs of every family will be different; therefore, when students are invited into the building on June 1<sup>st</sup>, the decision will be optional for families.

### **Our District's Preparation**

In Abbotsford, we have already begun to plan for our path forward. As I have shared in previous updates, we are already supporting children of essential service workers and some vulnerable students in our schools. Over the last few days, we have been exploring several modifications to in-class instruction, including a variety of hybrid models and schedules. To prepare for this partial return to school, we are asking all families to participate in a brief district survey to help us with our plans:

Parent Survey: <https://bit.ly/ABBY-SURVEY-15MAY2020>

### **Moving Forward**

The safety and well-being of staff and students continues to be paramount. It is vital that staff, students and families feel safe about returning to schools and expanded in-class instruction. While COVID-19 is not gone, we want to reassure all of you that we continue to be diligent in applying the provincial health and safety standards in all our buildings. We remain in regular contact with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and the Fraser Health Authority. We take direction from them and ensure our policies and safety practices adhere to their protocols to keep all of us safe.

I know you likely have many questions about the timing and design of the education program in your child's school. While we do not have the answers at this point, I want to reassure you that as we develop further plans for our schools, they will be communicated to you.

The latest updates will continue to be posted on our website: [www.abbyschools.ca](http://www.abbyschools.ca). In the interim, remote and online learning continues for students. If you have particular questions or concerns, please contact your school principal or teacher.

I would like to close, once again, by expressing my deepest gratitude to our entire Abbotsford School District community – our staff, our students, our families, and our community partners. Their extraordinary efforts have contributed to “flattening the curve,” while balancing your own commitment to health, loved ones and the economy. I continue to be incredibly proud of how our students have continued their learning, community service, and leadership; and of how our staff and educators have risen to many new challenges. And to our parents, in particular, I want to acknowledge the many sacrifices you have made. I am truly grateful for your incredible efforts, compassion and patience.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we move forward together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Godden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Kevin Godden  
Superintendent of Schools