

May 26th, 2020

Dear Abbotsford School District families,

As we announced on May 15th, restrictions continue to be lifted in our province, and we are preparing to welcome students back to our school on a limited and voluntary basis. Over the course of the last ten days, we have collected parent feedback to assist us in planning for this next phase. Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your feedback. This letter is intended to provide you with a few more details about what the next phase will look like for our school district.

Return to Partial In-Class Instruction

Beginning June 1st, parents/guardians will have the opportunity and choice to send their child to school for face to face instruction to better support the online learning that is currently in place. As a reminder, the decision to send your child to school is entirely voluntary. Students who remain on the online learning track for the remainder of the school year will not be penalized in any way.

Schools will look and feel different. There will be fewer students in our buildings with staggered schedules, smaller class sizes, and the organizations of classrooms will look slightly different. All of these changes are intended to support increased physical distancing as mandated by the Provincial Health Office.

Principals and teachers have built flexible schedules based on the survey feedback they received. This week, families can expect to hear from their child's school administration as to what those schedules will look like. If you do not hear from your school by Thursday, please contact them directly.

In-School Supports for Essential Services Workers

Throughout the suspension of in-class instruction, the district and our community partners have been providing care for the children of Essential Service Workers (ESWs) at centralized locations. Childcare for these children will now transition to neighbourhood catchment schools for June 1st. Children of support staff, teachers and school administrators are considered part of the ESW cohort and therefore have access to childcare. If you require care for your child while working, please complete our [ESW Childcare Request Form](#).

In-School Supports for Diverse Learners

As identified by the School Based Team in your catchment school, children with diverse abilities or vulnerabilities have an opportunity for up to five-days of educational services. These supports are based on a child's Individual Education Program, Annual Education Plan, or specific learning needs. If you are looking for additional support for your child's learning, please contact your school's learning services teacher, case manager or principal.

Convocation for Grade 12 Students

As mentioned in previous correspondence, secondary schools in the district will not host grad proms this year, and modified convocations will be held at the Abbotsford Arts Centre. Plans continue to be developed to respect provincial guidelines related to physical distancing. However, based on feedback from Grad

Committees, we will make amendments to our convocation plans that allow for a maximum of two parents/guardians per graduate to attend the ceremony. Further details will be provided by your school's principal in the coming days.

Moving Forward

As you know, the safety and well-being of our staff and students continues to be paramount. Our district's Leadership and Health & Safety Teams are working to ensure that all sites abide by the guidelines established by the Provincial Health Officer and WorkSafeBC for the K-12 sector. I have every confidence in our very committed staff that we will continue to pull together to tackle the task ahead of us.

Our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) have been updated with additional details following the May 15th provincial announcement. I encourage you and your family to review them prior to June 1st, and to continue to regularly visit our website - <http://www.abbyschools.ca> - for the latest COVID-19 updates and resources.

This next phase in BC's Restart Plan is an important step to help us prepare for the year ahead, when we may continue to see a blend of online and face to face learning for large blocks of time depending on the state of the pandemic.

Thank you for your patience and support 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