

May 8th, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are doing well and your family is staying safe. I am writing to provide a quick update on the status of school at this time.

By now, I am sure you have heard that the province is beginning a gradual ‘re-opening’ of various businesses and services. Part of this, of course, involves schools. The Ministry of Education described five stages of education, with stage 1 being complete ‘regular’ school and stage 5 being an entirely remote/online system.

Stage	Description
One	Regular Full time school K-12
Two	K-7 Full time, 8-12 blended
Three	K-5 Part time in school, 6-12 blended, largely online
Four	Childcare provided by districts, some vulnerable students F2F, most students online
Five	School sites closed, all education is online

We are currently in stage 4, where some children are in childcare provided by the school district, and a few others are in visiting schools, but the majority work from home. The government is looking at the possibility of transitioning to stage 3 in the coming weeks. What does that look like? While we don’t have all the information just yet, what has been described is a model in which Kindergartens through Grade Fives would attend school part time (two days a week) in smaller groups, while Grades Six through Twelve would continue in a similar fashion to what is happening right now.

The safety of students and staff is at the forefront of our considerations. First, and most importantly, I want to emphasize that if and when we begin to open schools for face to face classes, parents will make the decision on an individual level about sending their child to school. Second, while we await guidelines from the government on what this will look like, every effort will be maintained to ensure schools are clean and safe for everyone in them.

There are many, many details that need to be worked out before we consider a gradual re-entry of students and continuing to support those at home. These begin with safety measures for staff, and then operational details like school buses and playgrounds, as well as pedagogical considerations for teachers. There is no previous map for how this all unfolds. Therefore, it will likely be late May or early June before we are ready for stage 3 implementation. Much will depend on Dr Henry, the Provincial Health Officer, and the government as a whole. We will be working with our schools and staff in the weeks ahead to prepare. As the situation changes, we will update you. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me or your school principal for further information.

Finally, a reminder for these trying times. Recently, BCSTA president Stephanie Higginson told parents, ‘What you’re doing is good enough.’ I know that some parents -including me- fret about how their kids are doing, are they falling behind, are they getting too much screen

time, or junk food, or what have you. Parents need to do the best they can, but don't let school take over your life; what you're doing is good enough. When you are looking for help, you can connect with your school principal, or via websites like <https://www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning/> or <https://sd75curriculum.com/wellness/>.

As always, you are welcome to reach out to me by contacting me at angus.wilson@mpsd.ca. Please stay healthy and stay safe.

Sincerely



Angus Wilson
Superintendent of Schools