

August 28, 2020

Dear Families,

As promised in my letter to you on August 26, I am writing to share more information about how to select the option that you feel is right for both your family and for your child's learning experience. I also understand that for many of you, whether you choose to send your child back into school will depend upon how comfortable you feel with the health and safety measures we have in place. To that end, we will be providing a chance for you to learn more about the strict adherence in our schools to the protocols and guidelines provided by the Provincial Health Officer, Ministries of Health and Education, the BC Centre for Disease Control, the Fraser Health Authority and WorkSafe BC.

### **Health and Safety**

While details about health and safety can be found on [our website](#), we are also providing an opportunity for you to hear straight from our District's Health and Safety Manager, Terry Gomez. We will be hosting a live information evening which will be held by Zoom on Monday, August 31 at 4pm. To register for virtual attendance [click here](#).

### **Choices for Families**

The Ministry of Education direction to school districts across the province is to maximize in-class learning for all students. While we are planning for most students to return full time, we are listening to you and have heard that you also want an alternative choice. I am deeply appreciative of the creativity and hard work from staff, which has allowed us to present four options to meet the various needs of Burnaby families: attend your local school; home schooling; online distributed learning; and an option for families not quite ready to return to in-class instruction. We have also ensured a provision for immunocompromised students. Details of those options can be found [here](#). I want to emphasize that **regardless of your chosen option, every student will be guaranteed a spot at their current school in September 2021.**

As you can appreciate, it will take some time to build student-specific schedules, classes, learning groups, and plan staffing at our schools and online. We also want to do everything we can to ensure the start of the school year is as smooth as possible. To that end, we will need to know what families are choosing so that we are working with accurate numbers and appropriate staffing for the various options. **Please fill out the electronic form found [here](#) for each of your children indicating your choice by 11pm on September 1.**

### **Additional Information**

I appreciate that especially in times of uncertainty people are looking for clarity. COVID-19 is new to us all and the situation is ever-evolving. Rest assured that schools are working hard on what scheduling and other pieces will look like. We anticipate the following, in terms of sharing more information with you:

- **Week of August 31**
  - Schools will contact families about health and safety orientations and other important information, such as gradual entry to Kindergarten.
  - Each school will also hold a virtual parent meeting (they will share the date and time directly with you).
  - There will be direct communications to families of students with special needs.

- **Shortly after September 1**
  - Families will receive a note confirming their choice for September 2020. While we recognize that there may always be extenuating circumstances, our planning is based on your choices and, therefore, changes in your decision will impact our ability to provide as much certainty as possible for families in a timely manner.
- **Week of September 8**
  - School staff will connect with families of students with special needs who need additional support in transitioning back to school.
- **September 10 & 11 (Orientation Week)**
  - Students are welcomed back (please note that that not all students will attend September 10 – your school will share when your child’s orientation will be).

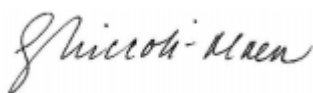
I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to so many. To our school and district-based staff, I deeply appreciate their tireless and unwavering efforts in readying our schools and systems. They have been working day and night to ensure our return to school plans are in place and ready to welcome all students, staff and families. To our parents and students, thank you for your infinite patience and understanding as we navigate these challenging times. Your insight, questions, feedback and support have proven invaluable.

I recognize that between hearing things in the news about what may be happening in other jurisdictions and seeing social media posts, there are many competing messages regarding the start of this most unique school year, and it can be confusing. For the most current information about Burnaby’s plans, I would refer you to our website: [www.burnabyschools.ca](http://www.burnabyschools.ca), where we will continue to post updates.

There are, and will continue to be, many uncertainties for us all, as we each find ways to manage this global pandemic. While you may not find the return to school options to be perfect, I do hope that we have been able to provide you with some clarity and confidence in making your decision about your child returning to school. Whatever your choice for the 2020-21 school year, please know that we are thrilled to be welcoming you back to another year.

As always, please take good care of yourselves and your loved ones.

With deepest thanks,



Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent

 <p><b>BOARD OF EDUCATION BURNABY SCHOOL DISTRICT 41</b></p> <p><b>IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE HAVE THIS TRANSLATED</b></p> <p><b>RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS</b> Prière de les faire traduire.</p> <p><b>重要資料</b> 請找人為你翻譯</p>	<p>これはたいせつなお知らせです。 どなたかに日本語に訳してもらってください。</p> <p><b>알려드립니다</b> 이것을 번역해 주십시오</p> <p><b>CHỈ DẪN QUAN TRỌNG</b> Xin nhờ người dịch hộ</p> <p><b>ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ</b> ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਉਲੰਘਾ ਕਰਵਾਓ ।</p> <p><b>INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE</b> Busque alguien que le traduzca.</p>	<p><b>اطلاعات مهم و سودمند</b> لطفاً از یک نفر بخواهید که برای شما ترجمه کند</p> <p><b>ITO AY MAHALAGANG IMPORMASYON</b> Isalin sa wikang tagalog kung hindi maintindihan</p> <p>يرجى ترجمة هذا معلومات هامة</p> <p><b>ВАЖНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ</b> Переведите это, пожалуйста.</p>
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