

August 26, 2020

Dear Families, Students, and Staff,

As we prepare to welcome students back in September, I am writing to share with you our return to school plans. Now that our plans have been approved by the Ministry of Education, I would like to share some next steps and information we will need to gather from families.

### Some Key Points

- **Health and Safety Measures:** Our top priority is the health and safety of students and staff. We are actively implementing provincial health and safety guidelines and protocols. [Learn more about health and safety measures.](#)
- **Maximum In-class Learning for All Students:** Our plans reflect the Ministry of Education direction to all districts to maximize in-class learning for all students at this time ([Stage 2](#)).
- **Public Briefing:** District staff will be providing a public briefing on the full plans at a Special Board Meeting today at 4pm. [Learn more.](#) Presentations will be posted on the website as soon as possible, following the meeting.
- **Where to Find Information:** All of the information contained in this letter is also available on the District website, [www.burnabyschools.ca](http://www.burnabyschools.ca), where we will continue to post updates.

### Return to School Plans

- **Elementary:** Students will attend full days with multiple measures taken to reduce the number of close interactions and contacts. [See the plan summary here.](#)
- **Secondary:** All grades will attend school every day, taking two classes each quarter for a total of eight classes over the school year. Those in Grades 10, 11 and 12 will attend one class in person daily and have a second class involving a mix of online and in-school learning. Multiple measures will be taken to reduce the number of close interactions and contacts. [See the plan summary here.](#)

### Additional Highlights

- Learning group sizes are often well below the allowable maximum.
- The learning groups reduce the number of interactions between students and staff, as well as feelings of isolation through increased peer support and connection.
- Maximum class elective choice is maintained to the greatest extent possible.
- Learning is integrated, with elementary and secondary plans inclusive of students with special needs. It's important to note that families of children with special needs will also be contacted directly by their school.
- Valuable input from our partners, as well as information gathered from parents, students and staff in the survey in June – including feedback on feelings of connectedness, consistency of scheduling and workload – helped to inform our plans.
- Should the pandemic stage change, our plans are easily adaptable.

### Information Required from Families and Next Steps

Your school will contact you the week of August 31 with further details about gradual entry for health and safety orientations, schedules and other information, such as gradual entry to Kindergarten. Learning groups will be shared during orientation week, beginning September 10.

While we are planning for most students to return to full time in-class instruction, in order to properly organize learning groups and arrange other details, **we will be sending an electronic form to families by the end of this week for you to complete by September 1.** We will be asking that you indicate your decision about sending your child to school. We have continued to refine our plans and provide inclusive options for families, including for those with

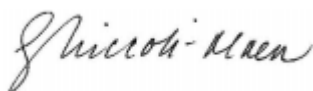
concerns about someone who is immunocompromised or has underlying medical issues. [Learn more about options here.](#)

I know that many of you are excited about coming back into school, and I also appreciate that some of you are feeling anxious about returning. Please be assured that we are here to support you in any way we can. As challenges arise, we will work together to solve them.

To say that COVID-19 has brought disruption to our lives would certainly be an understatement. While the impact of this global pandemic has changed many things, including how our schools are organized and programs are delivered, please know that our commitment to you has not changed. It is my sincere hope that you will find comfort and gain confidence in our plans, knowing that school and district staff are doing everything they can to support our families. Our schools will continue to be the safe, caring and inclusive communities you have come to know and expect.

I wish to sincerely thank you all for your support and insight, as we have worked to develop and refine our plans. I hope you will enjoy the last days of summer break, and I am looking forward to welcoming you back in September.

Wishing you all the very best,



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 ਉੱਲਥਾ 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><b>یرجی ترجمة هذا معلومات هامة</b></p> <p><b>ВАЖНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ</b> Переведите это, пожалуйста.</p>
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