



*Bringing Learning to Life!*

# Vancouver Island North School District No. 85

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September 3, 2021

Dear Staff and Families of SD85:

As the weather becomes a little cooler, and the days a little shorter, it is with excitement we start turning our attention to welcoming SD85 students, staff and families back to school for in-class instruction. I sincerely hope each one of you had time to reconnect, rest, and rejuvenate over a well-deserved summer break.

The start of this school year will look very similar to how we ended our school year in June, as we implement the updated Health and Safety Guidelines outlined by the Ministry of Education and Public Health for the K-12 sector. Some of the things you can expect for return to school this school year are: daily health checks, staying home if you are unwell, hand hygiene, masks for students in Grades 4 – 12 while indoors and on school buses, enhanced cleaning measures and reminders about respecting each other's personal space. There will continue to be limited access by visitors to our schools and parents are encouraged to book an appointment if they need to speak with their child's teacher. There are no cohorts this school year and at times there may be exceptions for staff members and students who are unable to wear a mask.

For more detailed information on the Ministry of Education's plan for return to school, please visit the Ministry of Education's Return to School [website](#).

At this time, schools are considered to be low-risk settings for COVID-19 transmission. Our efforts last year ensured that our schools remained safe places for students and staff.

I want to truly thank each and every member of our SD85 family for their hard work last year in creating safe, caring and engaging learning environments for all of our learners. *Gilakas'la!* I ask that we continue to remain diligent in creating that same environment this year, while continuing to follow all health and safety protocols. As a district, we continue to take direction from the Ministry of Education and Public Health and will continue to provide you with updated information as it becomes available.

Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and everyone who is eligible is strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

We look forward to welcoming all students and staff back to school on Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021. Please contact your local school or visit your school's website for detailed information on back to school times and procedures.

Welcome Back!

Sincerely,

Christina MacDonald  
Superintendent of Schools