



*"Home of the Thunderbirds"*

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September, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

As we work to start up our school year, there is lots of information to share!

The purpose of this email is to provide you with **information regarding the Elementary Transition Program**. If your family is not interested in this program then you need not read further.

Basic program information was provided in the Superintendent's September 2 email to families.

### **Elementary Transition Support Option**

The intent of this temporary educational support option is to maintain the student as part of their classroom cohort, support *some* educational continuity, and by a predetermined date, transition all students to their classroom cohort full-time. This option includes a combination of online district-based teacher support and in-class/cohort participation. However, it is not the same as an online learning program, nor is it intended to replace the robustness of in-person, in-class instruction.

Before choosing this option, please give careful consideration to the following:

- This option is suited to families who wish to have their child return to in-person, in-class instruction but would like more time and a more gradual transition.
- Families will be responsible for providing their child with regular and ongoing educational support at home.
- The success of a child's learning during the transition period will partially depend on the degree to which families ensure their child is engaging with learning and completing assignments.
- The learning needs of the child, including their level of independence as a learner, and a family's own availability to provide support, should be considered.
- A district-based teacher (and not the classroom teacher) will support the child's online learning. For the online learning component, the child will be part of a multi-age (combined grade) and multi-school grouping of students.
- Families of students in French Immersion programs will be responsible for supporting their child's French Immersion language development to ensure a successful return to in-person instruction. The district-based teacher will not provide French Immersion language instruction in the transition option.

- The temporary educational support option will be available until the start of the winter break (December 18, 2020). Families will need to decide and plan for whether their child returns to in-person, in-class instruction, registers for homeschooling or registers for an online and distributed learning program outside of the NVSD, for the remainder of the 2020/21 school year.

All students in the transition option will be provided with assignments and weekly check-ins by a district-based teacher who will support their learning and monitor their progress. In a typical week, families should anticipate up to two mornings of educational support from a teacher. This support will include an online cohort of students working on literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking learning goals. As part of the Elementary Transition Support option, opportunities will be provided for students to visit their school and participate in some in-person activities. This is a critical component of this option, as it encourages students to maintain connections and supports a positive re-entry to in-person, in-class instruction during the 2020/21 school year.

When parents are ready for their child to return to full-time, in-class instruction, they will be asked to work with the school to discuss a re-entry plan. Procedures for returning to the classroom will be provided to families who have selected the Elementary Transition Support option.

**Students who begin this school year in the Elementary Transition Program option can expect district-based teacher check-in's to begin the week of September 21."**

If you would like your child to participate in this option, please let your classroom teacher know as soon as possible. Many of you have already done this, thank you!

If you indicated in the Superintendent's survey that you would like to enroll in this option, you still need to **confirm** that you would like to continue in it. Please let your classroom teacher know as soon as possible. Many of you have already done this, thank you!

If you have not yet indicated your preference either way, and you would like your child enrolled in this option, it is not too late. Please let your classroom teacher know as soon as possible. Many of you have already done this, thank you!

I will be sending the list of students choosing to enroll in the Elementary Transition Program to the school district who will confirm next steps, either directly to you or through me. Stay tuned for more details. Remember, this program does not begin until September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Please contact me at any time should you have any questions and/or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Lisa Upton

Principal, Carisbrooke