

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the North Vancouver School District and Board of Education, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the 2020/21 school year.

We would also like to acknowledge that we are starting the school year under the most unique and challenging of circumstances. A global pandemic brings a degree of uncertainty to all aspects of our lives, and COVID-19 is something we are all having to learn to live with. In light of our new reality, we strongly feel our public education system, and particularly our North Vancouver School District schools, ground us and bring us together as a community.

From the moment students walk through the doors of their school, they will enter into a community of educators and staff who care deeply about students' health and wellbeing. This week, our staff will begin the important work of building a sense of community and trust with students. Our learning environments are meant to be places where students and staff feel safe, respected, and valued.

School is also where our students will master the core competencies of the BC Curriculum, while engaging in discussions that help them make sense of what is happening in the world. As we have shared with you from the outset of COVID-19, our staff are prepared to meet our students where they are at. We've all experienced profound change, and together, we will see each other through and persevere.

Without a doubt, school is going to look and feel a bit different this year. However, what has not changed is the general sense of anticipation and excitement about returning to in-class instruction. For our Kindergarten children who are beginning their educational journey, to our Grade 8 students who have transitioned to secondary school, to our Grade 12 students, who are entering their senior year before pursuing new adventures, this school year will be full of milestones, marked by moments of wonder and achievement. Whether students are learning in-class or online, we will be there with our students along that journey, supporting them as they pursue their goals and work through challenges, and celebrating with them as they achieve success.

Before we close, we would like to share the following with you:

- Virtual Town Hall. Join us tomorrow, Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm as Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health, and Superintendent Mark Pearmain answer your back-to-school questions. Click [HERE](#) to access the Microsoft Teams Live event link and [HERE](#) for instructions on how to join the event tomorrow.
- Communication. Later this week, you will receive information about the student Daily Health Check, Ministry of Education Back-to-School Fact Sheet, and safe and active travel to and from schools.

In closing, as you plan for a return to school this week, we encourage you to take a moment to reflect on where we are and where we will go, together as a community. Let's remember Dr. Bonnie Henry's, "Be kind, be calm and be safe," in working together toward our common goal of providing for our students world-class instruction and a rich diversity of engaging programs to inspire success and bring communities together to learn, share and grow. To deliver on this goal, we truly must be all in this, together.

We continue to be inspired by our students, our staff, and our community. And we are excited for what the school year will bring.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Pearmain".

Mark Pearmain  
Superintendent of Schools

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christie Sacré".

Christie Sacré  
Chair, Board of Education

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