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June 23, 2021

Dear SD43 families,

Congratulations once again to all our graduates! We are proud of all our students, for a successful school year despite recent challenges. The students of SD43 have experienced incredible achievements in all academic areas and across all grade levels. Many graduates have plans for post-secondary education and training with some securing scholarships and bursaries. Students have contributed to their schools and communities in outstanding ways with Real Acts of Caring, artistic mural creations and the construction of outdoor learning spaces, just to name a few examples. Each project, big or small, has contributed to the enduring spirit of SD43 students, staff and parents that makes our district a great place to learn.

The Provincial Health Officer (PHO) has indicated that we are on track for a full re-opening of schools in September with fewer restrictions. Hand hygiene and daily health checks will continue for students and staff, but learning is expected to be full time and in our classrooms. Guidance on wearing masks will be confirmed later this summer.

Based on guidance from the Office of the PHO, the Ministry of Education, and the BC Centre for Disease Control/BC Ministry of Health:

Students will no longer be grouped into cohorts or learning groups this September. Research has shown that schools were not significant sources of COVID-19 transmission, and with high vaccination rates throughout BC, these measures will no longer be necessary. This will allow for a return to the regular scheduling of classes. Should the current encouraging progress continue, it is anticipated the restrictions on gatherings, extracurricular activities and sports will no longer be required when the new school year begins.

As further details become available near the end of summer and before the beginning of the school term, we will share with you the updated guidance for K-12 Schools.

I want to commend all of you for coming together as a community in support of our students and contributing to such a fantastic school year. Now it is time to rest, relax and enjoy rekindling social bonds and relationships. Please continue to be cautious and follow the recommendations of the PHO and soon more and more activities will be available to us, including increased connections in school for our young people. Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September!

Sincerely,

Patricia Gartland
Superintendent/CEO

[The BC Centre for Disease Control's \(BCCDC's\) Outlook for the 2021-2022 School Year](#)
[The BC Centre for Disease Control's \(BCCDC's\) Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)
[The Ministry of Education's Provincial Covid-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12](#)