

Together We Learn



Central Okanagan Public Schools

Board of Education

Aug. 30, 2021

Dear families,

On behalf of all our staff, the Board of Education is excited to welcome students back to classrooms across the Central Okanagan. As with last September, schools will be clean, safe, and welcoming environments for everyone to reconnect and learn together.

Unlike last September however, we now have safe and effective vaccines that further lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission. We know that a strong uptake of vaccines in our communities is the best way to keep our schools safe for students and staff, and we strongly encourage everyone who is eligible to be immunized as soon as possible.

Central Okanagan Public Schools continues to follow the guidance of Provincial and Regional Health Officers to develop Communicable Disease Plans and keep our schools safe. In addition to the same strict health and safety protocols that we maintained last year, Interior Health has provided temporary public health directions for the start the year, which include measures such as limiting school visitors and asking that volunteers be fully vaccinated.

As before, we will quickly adapt to temporary directions and orders if they change in response to data and situations. For example, the recent ban on interschool sports competition was rescinded due to evidence about where COVID is transmitted.

You can read our draft plan and find links to the Provincial K-12 plans [on our website](#).

It is vital that our children can receive all the benefits of in-person learning. Our staff will do their part to keep schools clean and safe. We ask that our entire community does their part by getting fully vaccinated and promoting practices which reduce the spread of the virus.

A year ago, it was hard to imagine that we would still be coping with COVID-19 when schools opened for the 2021-2022 school year. However, this past year taught us that if we all work together, and support and encourage each other, it is possible to reconnect and find hope for the future. Together we are stronger.

Welcome back.

Board of Education – Trustees

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