



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Message from the Chairperson

Please forgive us a bit of pride, but we just have to point out that your child is attending one of the most successful school districts in BC! The initiatives we have taken over the past six or seven years have given us the highest Aboriginal graduation rate in the province, and we are also among the strongest districts in terms of overall graduation rate, currently at 96%. We are devoted to making learning active, relevant, and engaging for our students, while providing them with the key skills they will need to succeed in this challenging century.

In spite of our success, we are not sitting on our laurels. Here are some of the areas we will be concentrating on during the 2018-19 school year:

You can expect to see an emphasis on safe, inclusive learning environments and youth mental health strategies. We will also begin the implementation of the redesigned secondary curriculum and graduation program. As part of this, the new Career and Life Education curriculum will become foundational in our secondary schools, supporting youth through self-reflection, provincial assessments, capstone projects, and post-secondary planning. These changes to both content and teaching methods are highly compatible with our own district education plan, and have been designed in close collaboration with teachers from across the province. They are intended to more effectively prepare our students for life in the 21st century. More detailed information on this will be coming from your school principals soon.

As well, portables and renovations have been completed at many of our schools to prepare for the increased enrolment expectations across our corridor. The recruitment of many new staff has also been taking place and will be finalized soon, as exact student numbers become clear. Another large scale event you can expect to hear more about this year is the Provincial and Local Collective Agreement Bargaining with both CUPE and the BCTF. As well, local political elections take place in October for both municipal councils and the Board of Education trustees.

One of the key secrets to our success is collaboration, and therefore we encourage you to be a partner with your child's teacher and school. Do let us know what is working, and what we could improve.

Best of luck for a happy, productive year for your family and for your child. Let us work together to achieve our district's vision: "Kids run to learn here!"

- Rick Price, Board Chair