

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are well at this challenging time. As you are no doubt aware, details about BC's return to school plans have changed several times over the past few months. Mission's plan can be found here <https://www.mpsd.ca/District/covid19/Pages/default.aspx#/=> along with other related documents.

Broadly, school will be full time for most students. In Middle Schools, students will be on the 'Quarter System' and will not be in attendance Wednesday afternoons at this time. At Mission Secondary, students will be on a rotating schedule of attendance, and details have already been provided to parents and students. Please note that while the first day of school is Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, and is a full day, at some larger schools only a portion of the school population will be there that day. Your school will have contacted you with their plan for the first two days.

While school will appear similar to pre-Covid times, there are a few changes to be aware of. We ask that parents or community members that wish to enter school make arrangements with the school, as we are limiting the number of visitors at any given time in the building. As previously noted, masks will be required in Middle and Secondary schools, as well as on buses. Further, while schools will be providing masks, we do not have an unlimited supply of masks and other PPE, and would request that parents provide masks as necessary for children.

While Mission Public Schools is making every effort to ensure schools are safe, clean, and joyful places for learning, we know that for a variety of reasons some members of the community cannot attend their regular school at this time. Please find attached a document outlining the various options available to students. I suspect the most significant point of interest is that Mission will be planning to hold seats for students that enroll in Summit Learning Centre for 2020.

Parents considering their options should discuss with their current school principal. Please be aware that whenever students transfer schools or programs, there is inevitable loss of learning and delays in returning to class. Further, in order to honour the seat holding plan, it is expected students enrolled in Summit DL fully engage in that program if they wish to return to their regular school in the future. Also, DL programs province wide are experiencing significant increases in enrolment at this time, and we ask for your patience as the system expands to accommodate and work with your child.

Finally, these are trying times. Across the globe, people are tired, frustrated, isolated, scared, or even angry. While things are largely better in BC than many places, the same emotions are seen here. Every political, philosophical, and emotional position on Covid is seen in Mission and one of the purposes of public education is to allow us to all navigate these

uncharted waters together, despite our differences. I would ask that we all practice kindness, patience, and understanding to those with divergent views from your own, and remember that every member of the Mission community, including children, teachers, our staff, and your families has had to struggle through this time, each with their own story.

If you have questions about your specific school, please connect with your principal, and you are always welcome to contact me at [angus.wilson@mpsd.ca](mailto:angus.wilson@mpsd.ca) to discuss Mission's plans further. Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,



Angus Wilson  
Superintendent of Schools