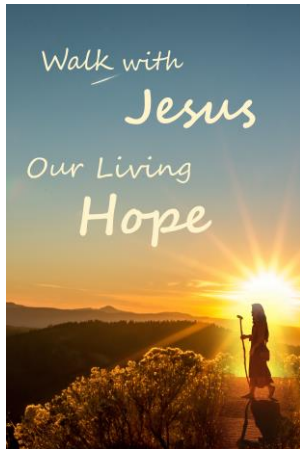




# Catholic Independent Schools Kamloops Diocese

## Office of the Superintendent

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August 25, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I pray that you and your families remain healthy, safe and well over the summer break.

Recently, [BC's Back to School Plan](#)<sup>1</sup> was announced by the Minister of Education and the Provincial Health Officer. In that announcement, Dr. Bonnie Henry noted that BC's COVID-19 data supports a safe return to in-class learning for all students. In September 2020 all schools in British Columbia will open in a revised Stage 2 with the goal of maximizing in-class instruction for all students within the revised public health guidelines to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

The provincial Back to School Plan is built upon three core principles to keep everyone safe:

1. New health and safety measures
2. Increased funding to keep school safe and clean
3. Learning groups to help reduce transmission

I write to provide you an overview of elements common to our CISKD schools regarding the September Education Restart Plan. After receiving the operational guidelines from the Ministry on August 17, 2020, a CISKD health and safety plan was prepared to guide schools in the creation of their revised local School Restart Plans. School Restart Plans are designed to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff, while creating environments where fruitful learning can occur. The documents have been submitted to the Ministry to comply with their requirements. A copy of the School Restart Plan shall be available on school websites by August 26, 2020. Principals will communicate a start up schedule with staff to support school planning that commences Tuesday September 1, 2020, and a student start up schedule that commences Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

Our health and safety standards that supported the return to in-class instruction last June proved to be safe and our schools build upon these practices as we prepare to welcome all students back to school.

As directed by the Ministry of Education, CISKD brick and mortar schools will open in Stage 2 of the [Ministry of Education's K-12 Five Stage Education Restart Plan](#) that provides for full time, in-school instruction.

There are some important directions common to all CISKD School Restart Plans:

- 1) All safety measures set out in the provincial health guidelines, along with those required for CISKD schools will be in place including health and safety protocols. Details are available in each school's safety plan, which includes whole school community education and training with provided resources.
- 2) Students enrolled in a CISKD school are expected to attend school full time and in person, unless they are sick and self-isolating, are immunocompromised, and/or have a pre-existing pulmonary condition. Options for students with these conditions can be discussed with the school directly.
- 3) Through the support of supplemental government funding, masks will be provided to students and staff members. Requirements for the use of masks are stated in the K-12 guidelines document and will be included in the school's safety plan and the community training/education component which is a part of school opening protocols.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

- 4) All students will be organized into learning groups, also referred to as 'cohorts'. A learning group (cohort) is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout a school term and whose interactions are primarily limited to those within that group. This strategy permits most students to receive in-class learning while significantly reducing the number of individual interactions. Students will be typically organized by their classes within a cohort. Class sizes shall remain at anticipated levels. Schools will create cohort learning groups that best meet the educational needs of the majority of students and the logistical needs of the school.
- 5) K-7 learning groups will have interactions limited to 60 students and staff, while learning groups in grades 8-12 will have interactions limited to 120 students. As such, there may be changes to school timetabling to accommodate these locally determined options that will be shared with community members.
- 6) The guidelines for physical distancing between learning groups (cohorts) shall be followed. When school activities or instruction require individuals from different cohorts to interact and no other accommodation is possible, masks will be required.
- 7) Along with enhanced health and safety measures in Stage 2, parents and students can expect regular communication, in-class instruction and supports, provincial curriculum for all students, regular assessment and report cards.
- 8) Parents can also expect the continuing commitment of CISKD, our schools and our associated parishes to the ongoing faith formation of our students and the development of opportunities for their personal relationship with Christ.
- 9) There may be, at some time during the year, the need to move to another Stage in the Ministry of Education's Five Stage Framework. Our schools are preparing for such an eventuality should it occur.

If you are considering an alternative to in-person learning at your local CISKD school, please contact your principal directly to learn of the alternatives available to you in BC, including our Catholic DL School.

If of interest, please refer to the links below that have guided our preparations. The CISKD Health & Safety protocols document can be reviewed on the CISKD website ([www.ciskd.ca](http://www.ciskd.ca)) and will be posted there by end of day on August 26.

May God continue to bless you as we prepare to welcome our students back to "Walk with Jesus, Our Living Hope"!

In faith, hope and Christian love,



Holly Paluck  
Superintendent of Schools  
Catholic Independent Schools Kamloops Diocese

[BC Ministry of Education 5 Stages Framework for K-12 Education - Explanation \(revised July 29 2020\)](#)

[BC Back to School Plan \(as of August 13, 2020\)](#)

[BC Ministry of Education K-12 Education Restart Plan \(revised July 29 2020\)](#)

[BC CDC COVID19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings \(revised July 29 2020\)](#)

[WorkSafeBC guidelines during COVID19](#)