



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians

I just wanted to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to the start of a new school year. I hope you had a chance this summer to relax and enjoy time with friends and family.

At the end of June, we were anticipating that we would be in a different place than we find ourselves today. We were hoping for a “near normal,” but due to rising cases we will still have some protocols in place as you have seen in the K-12 Back to School Plan from the Ministry of Education. If you would like to look through it, you can find it on the school district website www.sd59.bc.ca.

We will be starting the year with protocols very similar to those we had in June. The biggest difference is that there will not be learning groups and cohorts this year. There will still be mask wearing for all staff and students from grade 4 to 12, a reminder to practice good hand hygiene, and the importance of staying home when sick. Another exciting change is that extra-curricular events will be returning as they are a huge part of the culture of a school community.

As I reflect back on our last school year, I am so impressed with how all of our families worked together through this pandemic in navigating the constant changes, supporting school staff, connecting creatively, and keeping students and learning at the forefront of the work we do. A huge thank you to the community for helping to keep us safe so that our schools could be open all year. Please support us in keeping them safe this year as well. Empathy, compassion, and building relationships are more important now than ever. We are all inextricably linked to the integrity of the school system, so I encourage everyone to arrive for this school year with kindness, calmness and patience.

Enjoy your Labour Day long weekend and a reminder that our first day of school is Wednesday, September 8, with a shortened day (start time is two hours later and ending an hour earlier).

Christy Fennell
Superintendent
SD 59 Peace River South