



June 4, 2021

Dear Families,

Thank you for your continued partnership and perseverance. I know that this is not how any of us wanted this school year to end, but we must stay hopeful that better days are ahead.

We turn our attention now to develop and implement a plan for a safe return to learning in August 2021. We are strongly advocating that all students return to in-person learning, at school. We think that students' academic, social, and spiritual development will benefit greatly in a more traditional learning setting. That being said however, we know that the government wants families to have a choice for their child to participate in a remote learning strategy, if that model better suits their circumstances and needs.

We will offer families a virtual learning experience, but the elements of the virtual program will differ in some ways from the 2020-2021 version. Moving forward, the NCDSB virtual program will have some limitations including:

- No Kindergarten program;
- No French Immersion programs;
- No opportunity to transition between modalities (the decision made will be in effect for the duration of the 2021-2022 school year); and
- It is highly likely that classes will be combined grades.

We have included an information brochure for your reference. Please review it carefully and ensure that you have a full understanding of the program before making your decision to request your child's participation in a virtual program.

Families who are requesting a virtual program must share their intentions by completing a survey no later than Wednesday, June 9, 2021. The link can be found here:

[Request for a Remote Learning Program for the 2021-2022 School Year](#)

This is required ONLY for families requesting the virtual program. Our staff will be in touch to discuss your request and to obtain further information.

The NCDSB leadership team has engaged in a significant amount of discussion and work around our plan. We are very aware of the needs of our students and the anticipated learning gaps that might exist. As a result, we are committing to maximizing every opportunity available to us, to provide supports and services to students in our schools.

As a reminder, the school year calendars have been approved by the Ministry of Education. Therefore, I am confirming the start dates for school:

Bishop Belleau School, Moosonee

Thursday, August 19, 2021 (PA Day)

Friday, August 20, 2021 (PA Day)

Monday, August 23, 2021 (PA Day)

First day of school for BBS students: Tuesday, August 24, 2021

All other NCDSB schools

Monday, August 30, 2021 (PA Day)

Tuesday, August 31, 2021 (PA Day)

Wednesday, September 1, 2021 (PA Day)

First day of school for students: Thursday, September 2, 2021

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

Tricia Stefanic Weltz
Director of Education