

June 23, 2020

Dear Families,

As this extraordinary school year comes to an end, we must now turn our attention to the planning details for re-entry to school in September. I know that there are many questions and concerns to address, but we remain committed to sharing information with you on a regular basis.

Just last week the Minister of Education, Mr. Stephen Lecce, released some general guidelines and directives to help school boards begin their re-entry planning. All district school boards are expected to prepare for three possible scenarios:

- i) A full return to conventional, regular classroom instruction with health & safety requirements;
- ii) A continuation of remote learning, including the use of live, synchronous online instruction; and
- iii) An adapted delivery model that enables students to return to class with blended virtual learning, that includes health & safety requirements that will limit the maximum number of students to 15 per class.

Our NCDSB Pandemic Response Team continues to work diligently at addressing potential issues and developing solutions and strategies that will help keep our students and staff safe upon their re-entry to school. We will work over the summer to consult with our various stakeholders to ensure that our plan addresses multiple situations and concerns. We expect that the final re-entry plans and protocol will be shared with our families in mid-August. You are encouraged to visit our board website often to stay informed of our progress.

Another part of our re-entry planning, requires that we work through the complexities of student transportation. We anticipate a significant reduction in the number of students who will be able to ride the school bus. Currently, we understand that a regular school bus can have a maximum of 24 riders. Families are being encouraged to consider alternate modes of transportation for their children, including active transportation, wherever possible.

To assist with our planning, we are reaching out to our families to learn about your intentions for your child's return. We fully appreciate the uncertainties that you may have in this moment, but having a sense of where you stand at this time would be very helpful. The information you provide in this survey will be used to determine class arrangements and student transportation requirements.

Please take a couple of minutes to complete this short survey by clicking on this link:

<https://forms.gle/pQspyyQtrTr6kfJb8>

I am including the survey questions below, so that you know what to expect when you click on the link. The survey should take you less than five minutes. Kindly complete one survey for every child who is a registered student in an NCDSB school. The survey will be open until Friday, July 3, 2020.

NAME OF SCHOOL – choose from a list of schools

GRADE IN SEPTEMBER – choose from a list of grades

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Please choose the statement that best describes your intentions for your child in September, if schools are opened:

- My child will physically attend school in September.
- My child will not physically attend school in September.
- Unsure.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

- I will make my own alternate arrangements to transport my child to and from school.
- My child will take the school bus.
- My child is a walker and is not eligible for a regular school bus.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Take care, stay well, and be kind to each other.

Sincerely,

Tricia Stefanic Weltz
Director of Education