



A message from the Superintendent of Schools – School District 22 Vernon

September 2, 2021

Dear members of the School District 22 community,

It is my great pleasure to join all of you at School District 22, on the traditional and unceded territory of the syilx people. We know many of you are busy preparing for an exciting year ahead. Most important to all of us at School District 22, is the health & safety of students and staff, followed by wonderful opportunities to learn. Please know your child is at the heart of every decision we make. It has been a difficult summer for many staff and students, not only with the pandemic, but also wildfires, excessive heat, smoke, evacuations, and wondering about shelter, transportation, food acquisition and food sustainability. We hope that the return to school will bring some consistency, support, and peace.

Safe Return to School:

On Tuesday, August 24th, the Ministry of Education announced [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#). As per last year, the COVID situation will remain fluid, and we will adjust as needed. A reminder that we take our pandemic response direction from the Director of Public Health, Dr. Bonnie Henry, and under her guidance, Interior Health for regional matters, and the Ministry of Education. For information on the School District 22 COVID-19 response, please visit: COVID section <https://sd22.bc.ca/sd22-covid-safety-information/> on our website.

Student Transportation:

On Tuesday, September 7, buses will pick up all students for the regular time start time and deliver students home 3 hours earlier than normal. Transportation information, including bus route information, is available on the district website: <https://sd22.bc.ca/programs-services/bus-transportation/>

We are working hard with Okanagan Indian Band members and families, and all our Westside families that have been evacuated, to ensure we support those approved for transportation getting to school. Kindly contact transportation at 250-549-9281 for assistance. As we become aware of your relocation sites (ie: Silver Star, local hotels, other communities, etc.), we will work to help ensure your children get to school. We ask everyone to be patient the first few days as we sort out pick-up locations for those relocated and get everyone used to a few new routes. We thank you all in advance.

A reminder that all riders from Kindergarten to Grade 12 need to register annually. To register your student, please refer to the link above.

If you are driving your child to school, don't forget that you must stop when you see bus lights flashing – no matter which direction you are driving. Kindly ensure all children have cleared the area prior to proceeding and watch those school zone speed limits. We want everyone to be safe.

Start-up:

All schools begin on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at regular start times. Please note that the first day of classes will be an early dismissal day. Dismissal times for all schools will be 3 hours earlier than usual. Ensure you check your school website for start and pick up times.

Kindergarten

Welcome to your first day of a wonderful formal learning journey! As Kindergarten is a gradual entry program, please contact your child's school for more information.

Graduates

We hope you have a wonderful and exciting final year of learning. Be patient with yourself and know that your teachers, family, and friends, will be there for you as you make plans for an exciting future. Time will pass quickly. Enjoy every moment.

Board meeting

The first public Board meeting of the year will be held at the School Board office on Wednesday, September 15th at 5:30 pm. Please feel free to join us at 1401 – 15th Street, Vernon, BC. Due to COVID-19, we can welcome a maximum of 50 people so please be kind if you are told there is no more room. There are many other meetings throughout the year.

Thank you

A huge thanks to the Facilities, Grounds, Maintenance, Transportation, and all others who work hard over the summer to prepare our schools and services for the 2021-2022 school year.

Wishing you all a terrific start to the new school year.

Stay safe.

Sincerely,



Dr. Christine Perkins | Superintendent & Chief Executive Officer

Proud to live, work, learn, and play on the ancestral, unceded territory of the Syilx Nation.

(she, her, hers)

School District No. 22 (Vernon)

1401 - 15th Street, Vernon, B.C. V1T 8S8

Office: [250-549-9217](tel:250-549-9217)

Cell: [250-308-8191](tel:250-308-8191)

Email: cperkins@sd22.bc.ca

Web: www.sd22.bc.ca