



May 21, 2020

Dear Diamond School family,

Thank you all for your contributions to our Diamond community during these past two months. You have demonstrated great strengths during these unusual and often challenging times: endurance, sacrifice, and patience are words that come to mind. As a school community that emphasizes the importance of caring for others and working collectively, we are so proud of everything you have been doing to keep others safe and to support all of our student's continued learning.

In-Class Instruction Plan

A key part of B.C.s restart plan is the gradual return of students to in-school instruction. In accordance with the directives of the Ministry of Education and the Public Health Officer, we too will be offering in-class instruction on a part-time basis starting June 1 for all students. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 will be able to attend 50% of the time and students in Grades 6 – 10 may attend one day a week. Attending at school will be optional for all students, as the remote learning program will continue to be offered to all students as well.

School will of course be different for everyone than it was before. Having said that, we are excited to take on this new challenge and see everyone again after being apart for so long. We have been working hard to make the school ready so we can welcome our students back safely in June.

Kindergarten to Grade 5

In order to accommodate a part-time schedule for all students, we will be offering classes to students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 in two groups (Group A - Monday/Wednesday and Group B - Tuesday/Thursday). Each group will attend on alternating Fridays. The schedule for the two groups is as follows:

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
June 1: Monday – A June 2: Tuesday – B June 3: Wednesday – A June 4: Thursday – B June 5: Friday - A	June 8: Monday – A June 9: Tuesday – B June 10: Wednesday – A June 11: Thursday – B June 12: Friday - B	June 15: Monday – A June 16: Tuesday – B June 17: Wednesday – A June 18: Thursday – B June 19: Friday – TBA

Grades 6 to 10

Students in Grades 6 through 10 will attend on-campus one day each week. Each grade will be designated one day in the week to attend on-campus instruction. Remote learning will continue on the days in which students are off-campus. Each grade will be assigned their day of the week for on-campus instruction once we have received a response from families about attendance (see below).

Your Response Required

To facilitate our planning, please make sure to **reply to this email** no later than Monday, May 25th as to whether or not your child will be at school in June. If your child is in Kindergarten through Grade 5, please indicate your group preference as well (A or B). Please note that we may not be able to accommodate your group preference, but we will make every effort to accommodate families as much as possible.

Safety

We want you to be assured that we have your family's safety uppermost in our plan for re-opening the school. We have new processes and policies to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our school community, as well as some building changes and lots of signage to help even our youngest students learn the new processes.



DIAMOND SCHOOL

2019-2020

We will be ensuring physical distancing between students and staff at all times and throughout the school buildings. We have increased cleaning protocols, including a full-time cleaner that will be on-site throughout each day. Only students and staff will be able to enter the school buildings, and there will be staggered drop-off and pick-up times to ensure physical distancing in the parking lot and the halls. Health-check interviews will be conducted with each student and staff before they enter the building. Any person who is ill or feeling unwell will not be able to attend on-campus, and if someone becomes ill while already on-campus we have safety protocols in place that comply with all recommendations of the Public Health Office. Lockers will not be used or accessible for students.

Specific details, such as what students may and may not bring to school and pick-up and drop-off times and instructions, will be provided next week.

Support for a Member of Staff

As some of you may already know, a member of staff has recently been diagnosed with leukemia. He is currently in hospital and receiving treatment. He is very grateful for the well wishes he has received and knows that we are all thinking of him and his family at this time. Please note that he needs this time to rest and focus on his recovery, so please do not contact him directly. He has asked that if you would like to support his fight against leukemia, you can donate to the BC Children's Hospital's *Wigs for Kids* program (see *emailed version of newsletter*). His family thanks you for your generosity in advance. Like yourself, our thoughts are with him and his family at this time.

Celebrations!

Inspired by the "*ça va bien aller*" (everything will be all right) messages and rainbows being displayed in windows in Québec (see [this news story](#)), students in Grade 7 French have created their own to share in their home communities. Here is one example from Isabelle:

The Grade 6s have done a fantastic job learning about themes and recognizing them in books and movies. As always, they continue to meet any challenge with a positive attitude and determination.

The Grade 5s have done a fabulous job maintaining their social bonds during their afternoon Zoom sessions. We always look forward to hearing about their progress and hobbies. They are an inspiration. Well done!

The Grade 10 Visual Arts classes have begun working on their final projects which will combine collage, photography and digital design. They have made wonderful progress this year in developing their artistic voices and we can't wait to see what they come up with!

Drama 7/8/9 students have been recording monologue performances throughout the month, demonstrating great acting range and vocal expression. They are also completing their own scripts to direct and perform through virtual performances. What a joy to see such talent!

