

August 26, 2020

Dear Secondary Parents and Guardians:

The health and safety of all students, staff and parents is the district's highest priority in planning for a return to school in September. All schools will begin the year in Stage 2 of the [BC K-12 Education Restart Plan](#) and adhere to the requirements of the [COVID-19 Public Health Office's Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#).

The Richmond School District's Restart Plan has been approved by the Ministry of Education and is guided by the requirements of the Provincial Health Officer. The district's plan will support a safe return to in-person instruction for students and staff.

At this time, we are surveying parents and guardians, seeking information to inform our planning as we have heard that some families are not yet comfortable with having their child(ren) return to school for in-person instruction. The district has three options that are available to secondary families which include:

**Option 1: Returning to School for In-Person Instruction**

All schools will implement health and safety plans according to the enhanced safety guidelines under Stage 2 of the BC K-12 Education Restart Plan. As part of these guidelines, the Provincial Health Officer established a learning group, or cohort limit, of 120 students and staff. In order to meet this requirement, the district has transitioned to a quarter system. The quarter system consists of four, 10-week sessions. Students will take two courses in each 10-week session. The quarter system provides schools the best opportunity to offer students a wide range of elective choices.

*Grade 8 and 9*

Students will attend full-time, five days per week, with regular class sizes.

*Grade 10, 11 and 12*

Students will attend half-time (morning or afternoon), five days per week, with reduced class sizes.

**Option 2: Home Schooling**

Parents in British Columbia are entitled to provide an educational program for their child(ren) at home. It is important to note that if you select the home-schooling option, your child will not be registered with the Richmond School District. Home school programs are not supervised by district personnel, and you are responsible for delivering the curriculum and learning activities. If you choose to re-enroll your child into a district school, you will need to contact Central Registration. Registration and placement will be subject to established deadlines and space available.

**Option 3: Distributed Learning - Richmond Virtual School (RVS)**

*Grade 8 and 9*

RVS is a distributed learning school that offers a full-time alternative for students. Students will be able to enrol in eight courses that cover the core curriculum, with limited elective options. These courses will be offered in an online environment with the requirement to complete some in-person assessments. To enrol in full-time studies with RVS, students must withdraw from their neighbourhood school and must enrol with RVS.

*Grade 10, 11 and 12*

RVS is a distributed learning school that offers a variety of credit-based courses. These classes will be offered in an online environment, with the requirement to complete some in-person assessments or tutorials. To enrol in full-time studies with RVS, students must withdraw from their neighbourhood school and must enrol with RVS. RVS courses typically do not start until mid to late September. Space may be limited in these programs.

**Survey Information**

It is essential that all families complete the [Secondary Return to School Survey](#) by **4 p.m. on Sunday, August 30** to enable planning to continue. Please complete one survey for each secondary student in your family.

As further information becomes available, the district will continue to share details through email, as well as through our district website and social media.

Sincerely,



Scott Robinson  
Superintendent of Schools