



# Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese

*Office of the Superintendent*

August 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With the beginning of the new school year quickly approaching, I would like to provide you with an overview of the common elements of the September Education Restart Plan of the Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese. This plan has been submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval. After receiving operational guidelines from the Ministry on August 17, 2020, and in consultation with the CISVA Superintendent's Office, administrators in each school have worked tirelessly to develop Restart and Safety Plans as required by the Ministry. The plans are designed to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff, and at the same time create environments where fruitful learning can occur. Schools will release individual school Restart Plans to parents this week.

As directed by the Ministry of Education, CISVA schools will open in Stage 2 of the Ministry of Education's [K-12 Five-Stage Education Restart Plan](#) this September. All students will return to school on Thursday, September 10, 2020, for full-time instruction except in some high school settings where this will be supplemented with self-directed learning. There will be no remote learning in Stage 2. Schools will organize students in cohorts to limit contact and possible exposure, and implement newly revised [provincial health guidelines](#) to maintain a healthy and safe environment. Staff will return to school no later than Tuesday, September 8 to review these new health and safety requirements, and continue to prepare their schools for the safe return of students.

These are the important directions common to all CISVA schools' Restart Plans:

- All safety measures set out in the [provincial health guidelines](#) will be in place including enhanced health and safety protocols. Details are available in each school's safety plan which will be made available to parents this week.
- Students registered in a school are expected to attend school full-time and in person, unless they are sick or are immunocompromised and/or have a pre-existing pulmonary condition. Options for students with these conditions can be discussed with the school directly.
- Through the support of supplemental government funding, masks will be provided to students and staff members. Requirements for the use of masks are stated in [K-12 guidelines](#) and will be included in the school's safety plan.
- All elementary schools will be organized into classrooms as the student's primary learning environment. Elementary schools will continue on a linear schedule with all students attending every day and in person.
- Secondary schools will be organized such that learning groups can be limited to 120 individuals and physical distancing is possible in all other situations. This may result in

some grades being on a different timetable than others and students may take four courses for 20 weeks or two courses for 10 weeks. Individual school plans will provide these details.

- Along with enhanced health and safety measures, parents and students can expect regular communication, in-class instruction and supports, provincial curriculum for all students, regular assessment and report cards.
- Parents can also expect the continuing commitment of the CISVA, our schools and our associated parishes to the ongoing faith formation of our students and the development of opportunities for their personal encounter with Christ.
- There may be, at some time during the year, the need to move to another Stage in the Ministry of Education's Five Stage Framework. Our schools are prepared for such an eventuality should we receive this instruction from the province.

While it would be regrettable, if you choose not to have your child return to full-time in-class instruction, the following options are available to you:

- Parents may consider distributed learning (DL) and consult their local school district or other online services such as Ascend Online or TLA Online. CISVA is prohibited from offering distributed learning.
- Parents may select home schooling as an option to the BC educational system. Parents must register their child for homeschooling. A regular full-time registration in a CISVA school can not be reserved for a student registering for homeschooling. [Further information](#) on homeschooling is available from the Ministry of Education.

Many of your remaining questions will be answered in your school's plans. Our office and our principals will continue to closely monitor the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health for new information that affects our schools and update our plans and practices, as necessary.

Thank you for your patience and your continued support of our Catholic schools. I am looking forward with hope to a great year for all the members of our school communities, and particularly our students. As we continue through this challenging time let us listen with confidence to St. Francis de Sales: "We shall steer safely through every storm, so long as our heart is right, our intention fervent, our courage steadfast, and our trust fixed on God. If at times we are somewhat stunned by the tempest, never fear. Let us take a breath, and go on afresh."

Yours in Christ,



Deacon Henk Luyten  
Superintendent