



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Message for Families – July 23, 2020

Dear Parents, Families, and Staff

Recently, there has been much information in the news pertaining to school reopening, school board plans, and what exactly September will look like for our students. As a parent with a child in our system, I understand that many of you are looking for information in order to plan and make informed decisions for your children for September.

As part of my ongoing commitment to you, I want to provide an update as to where things stand, as well as a sense of a timeline for when you will be able to get the information and answers you are looking for.

In June, the Board was directed by the Ministry of Education to prepare plans for three specific scenarios for what schools could look like in September.

These scenarios are:

- 1 - Normal school day routine (everyday attendance) with enhanced public health protocols.
- 2 - Adapted school day (part-time attendance matched with distance learning) with a maximum of 15 students per classroom.
- 3 - At home learning model (fully remote education) involving synchronous learning (online small group or one-to-one instruction).

First and foremost, I want to reassure all of you that the Board has been actively preparing and planning for each one of these scenarios and consulting with various stakeholders on implementation. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for clear direction from the Ministry of Education as to exactly which scenario they are mandating school boards across the province follow.

The Ministry of Education has stated that they will provide this direction to school boards in early August, which in turn, will drive the details of our final plan enabling us to provide communication on next steps.

I want to assure all of you that while the Ministry of Education has not yet released their direction to school boards, our Board is continuing to prepare for September for whichever scenario is mandated. I am pleased to report that our Board is in the process of securing personal protective equipment and developing increased cleaning protocols, along with a multitude of other details that will be required to implement a safe environment for students and staff.

After the Ministry of Education finalizes their decision, we will release the corresponding *Return to School Plan* to our families.

We understand that the timing of this information is difficult for families who are trying to plan items like transportation and child care, but please understand that the safety and well-being of our students and staff is, and will always, be at the core of our planning.

You have my personal commitment that we will get the information out in a clear and transparent manner in early August once we received direction from the Ministry of Education.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during these challenging times.

God bless,

Rick Petrella, Chair of the Board