



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Message for Families – June 22, 2020

Dear Families,

“Having faith does not mean having no difficulties but having the strength to face them, knowing we are not alone.” Pope Francis

To say that the 2019-2020 school year was challenging is an understatement. It was unprecedented in so many ways and we are very proud of how we were able to work together to overcome the many barriers we faced and how, as a community, we were able to make sense out of the uncertainty. Please understand that the health and wellness of our students and staff is always our number one priority.

We understand that the thought of not returning to school full time in September may be confusing for families and may even cause undue stress. In order to answer questions and ease any fears, we will be communicating with you on a regular basis over the summer.

We have been asked by the Ministry of Education to plan **three scenarios** to be implemented in September, depending on the public health situation at the time. Those plans will be developed with consultation from the Ministry of Education as well as Public Health. Once that happens, we will publish the plans on our website to inform families.

Scenario 1 - normal school day routine (everyday attendance) with enhanced public health protocols.

Scenario 2 - adapted school day (part-time attendance matched with distance learning) with a maximum of 15 students per classroom.

Scenario 3 - at home learning model (fully remote education) involving synchronous learning (online small group or one-to-one instruction).

As well, we have been asked to prepare for modified transportation (bussing) where there are limited seats available on a bus and physical distancing is maintained.

Before we finalize the planning of these scenarios, we want to collect input from families. As we work through this process, we will communicate other specific aspects of what learning will look like when we return in September.

As part of the Board’s commitment to keep you informed and consulted, we ask that families participate in a brief survey so that we can hear your voice as we begin our planning. The survey will be open until Wednesday, June 24 at 4:30 p.m.

Link to Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BHNSeptember>

A link to the survey can also be found on the Board and school websites and on our Twitter account (@bhncdsb).

Once again, we would like to extend our gratitude to all parents and guardians for your work in educating your children over the last 14 weeks. This journey was unexpected and uncharted, yet you were able to somehow juggle your own challenges while putting the education of your children first. This truly is a remarkable and dedicated Catholic education community. As always, we will continue to work together to ensure the BHNCDSD remains healthy and well.

God bless,

Rick Petrella, Chair of the Board

Mike McDonald, Director of Education