



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64 (GULF ISLANDS)

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September 7, 2021

Dear SD64 students, families, and communities;

I join the School District 64 (Gulf Islands) staff across the district in welcoming you to the 2021/2022 school year. Maintenance staff have been hard at work all summer completing projects and preparing buildings for the return to school. In some cases, these projects have been focused on a new look for the district as we transition to a new configuration for the future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teams that have turned plans into realities over the summer.

When the summer vacation started at the end of June just a couple of months ago, it looked like we were heading in the right direction in terms of COVID-19 numbers and cases in the province. We were optimistic that the start of the year would be near normal. Unfortunately, we have seen a spike in COVID cases through the summer and some adjustments by the province have been made. Most notably, we will be beginning the year with mandatory masks for students in grades 4-12 and recommended masks for K-3.

A frequently asked question about our school buildings relates to the air ventilation system. As a district, we were quick to enhance the air filtration systems and ensure that fresh outside air is circulated. These systems are regularly monitored and filters are changed according to the requirements.

The health and safety of students and staff remains the highest priority and the district follows all of the standards set out by the ministries of health and education and WorkSafe BC. This district, as all districts across the province, will continue to work collaboratively with health officers and follow guidelines set out for the education sector including those for notification and health and safety.

SD 64 schools welcome you back and I wish for you a joyful return to learning.

Please contact your local school or the district office if you have any questions or concerns as we begin the 2021/2022 school year.

Sincerely,

Scott Benwell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools/CEO