

September 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Grade 8 and 9 Students,

As of this week, over 95 per cent of parents of secondary school students have indicated that they would like to have their child return to school for in-person learning. Staff across the district are working hard to prepare to welcome students back to school and are excited to re-establish a connection with your family.

Some parents of students in Grades 8 and 9 have indicated to the Board of Education and the Superintendent that they are not yet comfortable sending their children back to school for in-person learning at this time. Parents have also expressed concern about their children not retaining their spot in their neighbourhood school or program of choice such as French Immersion if they were to register them in Distributed Learning (Richmond Virtual School or other). As a result, these parents have requested that the Board provide a transitional option for students similar to what is being offered at the elementary level throughout the district.

Up to this point, the district has not been in a position to accommodate these requests due to Ministry of Education funding requirements. Earlier this week, the ministry provided districts greater funding flexibility on an interim basis, which allows students to remain enrolled at their school while receiving a remote learning program. This flexibility is temporary and requires that students transition back to in-person learning during this school year.

As a result of the ministry allowing for greater flexibility, the district is now offering a Remote Transition option for Grade 8 and 9 students. The Remote Transition option has replaced the Distributed Learning option previously offered to parents.

Option 1: Return to School for In-Person Learning in September

Option 2: Register for Homeschooling

Option 3: Remote Transition (**see program details below**)

- a. Available September 21 - February 3, 2021.
- b. Remain enrolled in neighbourhood school or program of choice.
- c. Students will be scheduled in two courses at a time.

If you are selecting the Remote Transition Option for your child, you will need to confirm by Sunday, September 6, at 12:00 p.m. by [signing up through this link](#) and clicking on the 'Register' button. Please be advised that the district is collecting your sign-up information through our Richmond Virtual School system. The District cannot guarantee space will be available for students who complete the form after the deadline.

If you had previously selected an option other than returning to school for in-person learning, and have now changed your mind and would like your child to return to their neighbourhood school for September, please contact the school principal immediately.

Remote Transition Option Grades 8 and 9		
Student Responsibilities	Parent Responsibilities	Teacher Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in all aspects of remote learning including self-directed learning, class discussions, virtual classes. Complete assignments and learning activities. Attend in-person assessments. Attend all virtual classes. Manage time efficiently and meet all course deadlines. Ask the teacher for support as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a space where your child can engage in self-directed learning and virtual classes without distraction. Help your child with time management. Ensure your child completes and submits their assignments and learning activities. Communicate reasons for missed attendance to the teacher. Arrange transportation for your child to attend in-person assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide instruction and a variety of learning activities. Provide formative and summative assessment. Take attendance for each virtual class. Engage with parents and students at regular intervals. Provide support to students as needed.

Remote Transition Program Design:

- Available September 21, 2020 - February 3, 2021.
- Remain enrolled in neighbourhood school or program of choice.
- Students will be registered in two courses each quarter.
- Students have the option of returning to their neighbourhood school for in-person learning for Quarter 2 which begins on **November 19, 2020**. A minimum of 10 days-notice of intent to return prior to the start of Quarter 2 is required.
- Students who choose not to return to in-person learning after February 3, 2021 will be withdrawn from their neighbourhood school and will need to enrol in a Distributed Learning program, or request for homeschooling.
- Students will be taught by a Richmond School District teacher but not necessarily a teacher from their current school.
- Instruction will include a combination of weekly synchronous learning (virtual 'live' lessons) and self-directed learning.
- Students will need to complete scheduled in-person assessments during each quarter.
- During all in-person assessments, students will be required to maintain physical distancing and adhere to the guidelines of the Provincial Health Officer.
- Remote course offerings will include English, Social Studies, Math, and Science. Other Grade 8 and 9 course offerings may be available subject to enrolment trends and the availability of staffing.
- French Immersion instruction is subject to enrolment trends and the availability of staffing.