



Bluewater District School Board

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September 16, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope that the back-to-school transition has been a positive one for your family. The following are some updates as we continue to plan for a safe and successful school year for all our students.

To help our school board align planning with the two terms/four quadesters of the school year, and as part of our annual reorganizing of schools to ensure class sizes match staffing, please note the following deadline dates. These are being implemented for families who wish to transition their children from in-person learning (at school) to remote learning (at home), and those who wish to transition from remote learning to in-person learning.

Elementary

Term 1 elementary students currently attending their in-person school, who choose to switch to the remote learning school, need to do so by **9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2020**. Students would transition after the Thanksgiving weekend.

Requests to transition elementary students to the remote learning school for **Term 2** must be submitted by **9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 8, 2021**. Students would transition on February 3, 2021.

Secondary

Secondary students currently attending their in-person school, who choose to switch to the remote learning school, need to do so by the designated dates at the beginning of each quadester (e.g., November 12, February 3, April 22), as previously communicated.

To initiate a transition from in-person learning to remote learning, parents/guardians are asked to contact their child(ren)'s elementary or secondary school principal.

The decision for transition dates supports our board's ability to determine staffing needs for both our remote and in-person schools to set them up for success. As is the case every year, we reorganize staffing and classes as needed following the September start-up. We will be reorganizing our in-person schools to ensure we have an appropriate balance for both in-person and remote learning schools. Setting transition dates also aligns with the process of many other school boards. This process will allow students to have a full term/quadester of instruction, while also following the usual report card schedule.

Please continue to monitor our 'return to school' section on our Bluewater District School Board website at [www.bwdsb.on.ca/Parents/Return to School](http://www.bwdsb.on.ca/Parents/Return_to_School). Updates are also being shared on our board Facebook and Twitter pages. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your child(ren)'s school.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding as we continue to plan for a successful 2020 – 2021 school year for all our students.

Lori Wilder
Director of Education