



Bluewater District School Board

Lori Wilder, *Director of Education*

351 1st Avenue North - PO Box 190
Chesley ON N0G 1L0
Telephone: (519) 363-2014
Fax: (519) 370-2909
www.bwdsb.on.ca

August 7, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope you and your families have been enjoying the summer. As mentioned in my letter from last week, Bluewater District School Board was required to present to the Ministry of Education the details of our return to school planning for September. I am pleased to report that we have completed that step and are now moving forward with actioning our plan for a conventional full return of students and staff as directed by the ministry.

As we prepare for the return to learning in September, our priority is the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We have involved our local Public Health Unit as part of our planning, while also following the directions of the Ministry of Education to ensure that our schools and workplaces are prepared, and our students and staff experience a successful return.

To help answer your questions about our return to school plan, and broaden understanding of the protocols we are putting in place, we have posted a Q and A on our new web page, www.bwdsb.on.ca/Parents/Return_to_School.

Please note that we have divided the Q and A into two sections: "School Operations" and "Program and Instruction". Simply click on the appropriate labeled button to view the information for each section.

I would like to emphasize that our Q and A is a living document and will continue to be updated as new details emerge in our ongoing planning. We know and expect that there will be additional questions and logistics to consider as we move through this process.

There is an important requirement in this year's return to school planning that I would also like to bring to your attention. In order to ensure adequate safety plans are in place, the Ministry of Education is recommending that all parents/guardians in Ontario register their children for the fall term in advance. **This will be required even if your child(ren) previously had been registered to attend a Bluewater District School Board school.**

All students, new and current, who are planning to attend Bluewater District School Board schools must be registered on or before August 19, 2020 in order to ensure they will be able to start on the first day of school, September 8, 2020.

To register, simply complete our student pre-registration survey at this [link](#).

Parents/guardians who choose to keep their child(ren) at home at the beginning of the school year are also required to fill out the above student pre-registration survey, where they will indicate their preference for remote learning.

To streamline the flow of communication, a new centralized email account has also been created for any additional questions you may have. Feel free to contact us at ReturnToSchool@bwdsb.on.ca, and a member of our planning team will follow up with you as soon as they can.

Our return to school plan is based on the advice, guidance, and directives of the Ministry of Education, and provincial and local public health officials, as well as ongoing consultation with community, education, and labour partners.

Please remember that we are here to support you and your child(ren) through this important transition, and remain deeply committed to providing a healthy, safe, and rewarding school year for every student in our care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Wilder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Wilder
Director of Education