



September 1st, 2020

Dear Secondary Parents and Guardians –

We hope that there is some anticipation and a little excitement about the return to learning for your child. As we have mentioned before – we know that is perhaps mixed with some apprehension, but once again we want to assure you that we have worked diligently on our plan, and we do feel that it has been developed to maximize the opportunity for a safe return for all, as well as a positive learning experience. We are truly looking forward to welcoming our students back.


This letter comes with an update to last week's letter. In particular – in relation to the staggered start. In last week's letter we indicated that Secondary would commence on September 8th. We were certainly hopeful that would be the case, however in addition to wanting to ensure our buildings are fully ready to welcome all students, we have been transitioning to a new Student Information System. I cannot say enough about the efforts of our staff both in schools and centrally. Nonetheless, the process of both the transition to the new system and of adapting our student information system to the new "quadmester model" (instead of the traditional semestered model) was somewhat more time consuming than we had hoped. Further, some responses from parents/families have been slower in coming.

We need to have the full confidence that we know where each student is supposed to be and to ensure our cohorts have been balanced appropriately in terms of numbers. These are key priorities to everyone's safe return. For all of these reasons, and out of an abundance of caution, we are moving the Secondary start day to **Monday, September 14th**.

Details about our secondary model, the timing of a day and our Operational Guidelines are all available on our website. www.wcdsb.ca As well – a new webpage with additional details about our Virtual School St. Isidore will also be posted within the next day or two. All information relevant to cohorts and student schedules will now be available as of **Wednesday Sept 9th**. We apologize for any inconvenience but again our decision regarding a new Student Information System was made long before COVID has become a reality. We want to ensure the safest possible start for all.

Please reach out to us if you need help or guidance, and remain confident that we are here to support you, as we walk together as a hope-filled community. #WCDSBTogether.

Sincerely,



Loretta Notten
Director of Education

