



**Canadian Rockies School Division**  
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September 2, 2020

Re: Important Update for Parents - School Re-Entry and Staff Re-Configuration

Parents and Students of Canadian Rockies Public Schools,

As you are aware, CRPS is offering both regular 'face-to-face' instruction and teacher-led 'at-home' learning options this school year, to help provide students and parents with educational choice as we navigate the impact of the pandemic together. This week we have been formulating detailed plans to address the educational needs of all students including the 326 students who have chosen the teacher-led 'at-home' learning option. This is a significant number of students choosing to work from home which will have a significant impact on our staffing.

As the school year starts, we find our enrolments have been further impacted by the outward migration of approximately 50 students. Most have left the valley or chosen a different Distance Education Program other than programs offered by CRPS.

Of the 326 students who have chosen to participate in the teacher-led 'at-home' learning option, approximately 103 of these students are in high school where their learning will happen synchronously (through Google Meet) with their assigned classroom teacher.

In order to support the 223 students who have chosen 'at-home' learning in grades Kindergarten to Grade 8 the entire staffing component for CRPS is being reviewed by our Human Resources Department and school administration. In classrooms where the numbers of students are lower, due to families choosing 'at-home' learning for their child/children, classes *must* be combined. This step is absolutely necessary to support each family's choice of learning for their child/children, whether 'face-to-face' or 'at-home'.

School divisions across the country are engaging in this process because they do not have the financial ability to reduce class sizes when no additional provincial funding has been provided. Although we are aware that money is coming from the federal government to the provinces to distribute as they see fit; we are unaware of the amount CRPS will receive, as well as what the parameters for distributing this funding will be.

As always, our staffing must follow our students. At the present time, we need to re-assign staff to support students who are choosing the 'at-home' learning option. We understand that reconfiguration of classes may not be ideal for your child; however, we must make difficult decisions during these unprecedented times that are in the best interests of *all* children. We will continue to monitor student learning choices and make decisions with the least amount of

disruption possible. If some students decide to make a change to 'face-to-face' learning' or conversely, 'at-home' learning at the end of the first quarter, then staff will be realigned to support this shift. At the end of October all parents will be provided with an opportunity to make a final choice between 'at-home' or ' in-person' learning for the remainder of the school year.

We respect parents' right to decide which learning option best meets their family's situation. We will do our best to accommodate all students' learning needs; however, it is unlikely that everyone will agree with the accommodations that must be made. These changes, which will commence Tuesday, September 8, will be shared with staff today. Changes that impact your child's classroom assignment or homeroom teacher will be shared by the school. Families who have chosen teacher-led 'at-home' learning for their child(ren) in Grades K-8 will be contacted by their child's teacher by Tuesday, September 8.

We would like to emphasize that every decision we make is student-centered, with the aim to provide the best education possible for all CRPS students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher MacPhee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" and last name "MacPhee" clearly legible.

Christopher MacPhee  
Superintendent of Schools