

Dear ASD-S Families,

I hope you all had a restful and safe summer. Facilities and custodial staff have been busy since the end of June preparing our buildings for the new school year, and teachers returned this week to finish getting ready for the exciting year ahead.

Students will start school next week on a staggered entry by grade. More information will come from your child's school, or you can review the district calendar [here](#).

Our Transportation Team has finalized busing information and we encourage you to confirm your child's stops and times on [BusPlanner](#). By signing up for BusPlanner, you will be notified of busing updates such as delays, cancellations, and route changes. Information on signing up can be found [here](#).

Over the last few years, our students have experienced disruptions to their routine and learning as a result of the pandemic. We are optimistic that this year will feel more like normal for staff and students and we are looking forward to a positive year ahead.

Although the province no longer has mandated COVID protocols, we know families and staff are mindful about keeping our schools safe and healthy spaces. Many healthy habits that we have been reminded of throughout the pandemic, such as washing and sanitizing our hands, staying home when sick, and coughing into our elbows, are still encouraged to prevent many kinds of illness, including stomach bugs, colds, and the flu.

Although no longer required, some students and staff will choose to wear a mask based on their level of risk or concern. We will continue to support our schools, so they remain a welcoming, supportive, and respectful environment for everyone.

Some good reminders for all of us:

- Having good attendance is important, however if your child is sick, they should stay home. According to Public Health, with any communicable diseases, stay home until you have been fever-free for 24 hours with no diarrhea or vomiting for 48 hours without medication.
- If you or your child have symptoms of COVID or have tested positive, we encourage you to follow Public Health's advice available [online](#).
- Everyone six-months-old and above is now able to get vaccinated. More information on the vaccine, and how to book an appointment, is available [online](#).

If you have further questions about COVID, please visit the following gnb sites:

[Protecting Yourself and Others](#)
[Testing for COVID-19](#)
[COVID-19 Symptom Checker](#)

As the school year gets underway, we encourage you to find ways to be active in your school community. There are often a variety of volunteer opportunities to suit different

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interests and availability. You may also consider joining your school's Parent School Support Committee (PSSC). It is a great way to participate in your child's school, network, and find personal growth and professional development opportunities. Reach out to your child's principal for more information on these opportunities.

All the best for the coming year and thank you for all you do to help keep our schools welcoming, supportive places for our students to learn. We look forward to seeing everyone in person soon.

Sincerely,

Zoë Watson
Superintendent, ASD-S