

Welcome Back

It is my pleasure to welcome you all back for the 2020-21 school year. I hope you had a great summer.

This certainly is not a typical start to the school year and I would like to thank our students, parents and staff for their support, adaptability and patience as we coordinate the re-opening of schools. I have had the great pleasure of speaking with many families over the past month to discuss school re-entry and hear their concerns. These conversations have provided us with a better understanding of the complexities that school re-entry has in the lives of our families. Thank you for your time and openness in sharing. I am humbled by, and not surprised by the level of care, support and understanding especially during this uncertain time. Please know that it is our highest commitment to ensure the safety of our students and we will continue to honor their well-being as we start this new, and different, school year.

As you are aware, we are starting the year in Scenario 1 (in-school classes resume, near-normal operations with health measures) as directed by the Alberta Government. Please view the [PRSD Quick Guide for Families](#) that provides key points from the PRSD Scenario 1 Re-entry Plan.

Please be advised that things may shift and change depending on the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. This could mean that we shift to Scenario 2 (in-school classes partially resume with additional health measures) or Scenario 3 (at-home learning continues, in-school classes are cancelled). All three Scenario Relaunch Plans are available on our website at prsd.ab.ca. Please note that these decisions are and will be mandated by the Alberta Government upon the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

I would like to take a moment to thank our staff for their dedication and tireless work in preparing our schools for re-entry. The level of determination and care demonstrated by our staff is noticed and very much appreciated. This school year will certainly look different, and preparing for re-entry has been challenging, but I can honestly say the positive attitude and mindset of our staff clearly demonstrates our mission statement “learning together, success for all.”

In closing, I would like to thank our students, parents, families, staff, community members and organizations for your support and involvement in education. Together we are able to provide students with safe and caring learning environments that foster student success and well-being. Your involvement makes a significant difference in the overall operation and atmosphere of our schools as it also translates to a strong sense of community and support.

From all of us at Peace River School Division, we wish you a great 2020-2021 school year.

Paul Bennett, PRSD Superintendent