

Good morning all. Ey Swayel.

It is August 31, and next week we will return to school and I wanted to provide another update for parents just in terms of where we are, and what do things look like for next week.

First and foremost, I want to remind you about our regular options for returning to school on September 10th and 11th. You know that kindergarten through grade 7, schools will largely look as normal for your young child. They will not see many things different in terms of their in-class instruction, although there will be lots of different routines around movement and hygiene and washing your hands and making sure that you're not in close physical contact with other students. So, for many of our elementary students, hopefully they will not notice any difference around the regular instruction. For students in grades 8 and 9, you will have one block in the morning and one block in the afternoon, and you'll be in school full time. There will be longer blocks than you're used to, and those two long blocks will go on for 10 weeks and then you'll hit a new term and then you'll have your two additional courses and then we'll go on and you'll do that four times during the year so you'll get your eight courses. For students in grades 10 to 12, you know that we have a blended program with one block in the morning and then an online block in the afternoon with one opportunity of face to face instruction in a very small class for one afternoon a week. So those are our general programs and you should be really familiar with those. And you can expect lots of communication from your regular school this week around exactly what's going to happen for you on opening week beginning on September 10th.

But the other pieces we've heard clearly from parents, is some people are just nervous about going to school. They're not sure about our current pandemic situation, and whether or not it's safe, or whether they even want their child to return to school. So they've been looking for options, and this morning I want to introduce you to two options we're going to have for parents which we call Surrey Blended. So in elementary schools, and for students in grades 8 and 9, these programs will provide the opportunity for transition back to school in a slower, more methodical way, and include online learning.

So here's what it will look like. For students in kindergarten through grade 7, Surrey Blended will include online learning and will be available five mornings a week. So you can expect structured time with your teacher and it will be attached to your neighborhood school. So you will not be changing school, you will remain registered in your regular school, and you'll get online learning, as I said, in the morning. In the afternoon, there were three different structures. One provided dedicated teacher collaboration time because we're going to likely have a number of teachers across the district who are going to be doing this work. We want to have those teachers be able to connect with each other, to share their strategies, share what's working for them, share the tools, tips and techniques for what truly blended learning looks like for elementary school, and really develop a network of support for those teachers. These will be multi age classrooms and that's another thing for teachers to work with and for parents to expect. Second component is a dedicated opportunity for parent contact, again in the afternoon. Parents will be doing a lot of support of the students at home, they'll need tips, techniques, structures and strategies tools for what this looks like at the home because it's a big responsibility for parents to provide a majority of instruction for your students. And so teachers will be given time to work directly with you to help you with strategies for home. The third component is a gradual increase of face to face time so there will be the option for students to come in face to face. At first, one afternoon a week and then two, and then three afternoons a week, as we go through September, October and November. And this is designed so that hopefully when students get more comfortable coming to school, that they will make

a decision to return to school fully. There will be one opportunity to come back to school, into the regular classroom, and that will be on January 1st. There'll be much more information coming up from our office, in our district, this week on just what that looks like, but it's an elementary transition model, and we call it Surrey Blended.

What about secondary? Well, as you know, we have a hybrid model, a blended model for grades 10, 11 and 12. We also of course have a distributed learning program called Surrey Academy for Innovative Learning (SAIL), and you can register there if that is something you wish to do. So you have a hybrid and you have Distributed Learning. But for grade 8 and 9 we didn't have a program, just straight face to face for the two blocks as I described. So we're now creating a Surrey Blended model for Gr. 8 and 9 as well. Now the Gr. 8 and 9 program is diverse as well, so what we want first and foremost is to have those students in grade 8 to 9 to reach out to their school. If you feel that you're not ready to have your child returned, we want to speak with you and we want to talk to you about what the options for online learning or changing your schedule or even delaying your attendance, so that we can get you back into building, at some point, whether that be term one term, term two or term three.

So what we need from you, from parents, at this point is if you are absolutely certain that your child will not be coming back to school in September. You will see registration information and the elementary transition model, and that will be coming out and you can see it again, on our website. And much more detail around exactly what the program looks like. And for the secondary students in grade 8 through 12, if you're absolutely certain your child will not be returning, we need you to fill in the form again, and you'll see a link on our website and contact your school by September 4. So why do we need to know these things by those dates. Well, we have to form our learning cohorts, so we're going to need to know how many students are actually coming to school, we know we've got many changes in our school, we believe they're safe welcoming caring places, and to be the same as they've always been. I'm excited about starting school next week and we're hoping that students and parents are excited about getting back to routines as normal as well. It's been over 180 days from March 13th to September 10th and that's a long period of time to be away, so we're hoping that these the Surrey Blended models, both in elementary and secondary, provide parents with additional choice around how they can come back to school in the fall, and again these are transition programs designed to give you the opportunity to do blended learning, but also the opportunity to come back to your neighborhood school should you wish to do so.

I'll do another video next week for sure, but I know this is your last chance for a holiday on Labor Day weekend. I hope the sun is shining, have a great time and most importantly, I look forward to school starting next week.

Take care. Thanks very much. Hy'ce:pka