



Carolyn Lewis

Superintendent's Message - June 25, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Before we take a well-deserved break at the end of the month, I encourage you to carefully read the province's documents about re-entry, specifically the information they released about [Scenario 1: In-school classes resume](#) (near normal with health measures) to familiarize yourself with some of the guidelines the province is proposing. As indicated by the minister last week, the province is targeting an in-school class return with as near normal operations as possible. While the final decision will be made by August 1, we are planning for all three possible scenarios in the coming weeks. Thank you for providing feedback in the survey we sent out last week. More information will be shared with you closer to the start of the school year.

I would like to take the opportunity to briefly reflect on the past four months. When we began this the school year, none of us could have anticipated the impact of the economy on Alberta's budget, and of the COVID pandemic on our staff, students and families. I am so proud of GYPSD's collective and timely response to these challenges and in particular, I applaud the collaborative spirit that unites the five communities that make up our Division. Staff was agile in their response to the distance/online learning platform shift; our Family School Liaison Counsellors and BEST coaches were responsive to the mental health needs and requests for support for families, and our Division and schools worked with partnering agencies to ensure nutritional supports were available for families.

The success of GYPSD is the result of the collective efforts and commitment of staff, families, and students. As we look ahead to the end of the summer and the beginning of the next school year, we recognize that there are unknowns with the re-entry process. But I know that the strengths of this Division are to be adaptive, thoughtful, and proactive – and whatever scenario we may face, I know GYPSD will be ready to meet safety requirements while Student Learning remains at the forefront of our decisions.

I want to thank everyone for their work this year and wish everyone a wonderful summer and Canada Day celebration. Stay safe!

Respectfully, Carolyn

