

VCS MEMO to parents, students and staff

Dear VCS Community,

I trust you are all enjoying this summer season, and want to provide you with an update on planning that is underway for the 2020-21 school year. But first, check-out the photo below, taken today, of my beloved twisted baby locust tree! Now, if you are new to VCS, this photo means nothing to you, but if you journeyed along with me through this past Spring you saw pictures/videos of this same tree in a bare, broken, seemingly lifeless state. However, all along life was coursing through its roots and limbs, and it is now flourishing...

...Similarly, we are preparing for the “limbs” of our school community - some of which had to remain sparse and dormant over the past months - to come back to full life! BC has maintained stable COVID-19 infection rates, prompting the Ministry of Education, Rob Fleming and Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry to release a back-to-school plan for September. As school leadership, we are excited and praise God that in September we will be able to continue with an education model that best suits our mission to equip students for a life of discipleship: in-person, community-based, Christ-centered learning.

Highlights:

- **BC will move to Stage 2 of a revised five-stage framework for schools.** Please note that the Ministry of Education has made changes to its initial 5-stage plan; therefore, current VCS planning will look somewhat different than outlined in a July email memo titled: “2020-21 VCS Re-start plan.”
- **Stage 2 features a full K-12 return to in-class instruction.** Links below provide more information about the research and proactive planning measures that will allow for a safe, controlled return to campus for all of our students.
- **Elementary and Secondary classes** will be structured and organized very much as usual.
- **Students and staff will be organized into “cohorts” (learning groups),** with a maximum of 60 at the elementary level and 120 at the secondary level. The formation of these groups for learning and break times will allow for a significant reduction in the number of individual interactions, and allow students to receive in-person learning in a close-to-normal environment.
- **Adaptations to schedules, timetables, and health & safety protocols** will support safe, effective learning across both campuses.
- **Busing will continue,** with specific safety procedures in place to support safe transportation before and after school

Upcoming:

- Over the coming weeks, Administration will be developing and submitting a comprehensive school restart plan to the Ministry of Education, consistent with our mission and the published provincial guidelines, including consultation with the VCS Board.
- **August 26** - the 2020-21 VCS Restart Plan will be emailed to the parent community.

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- **Aug. 31-Sep.4** - Admin., Office and teaching staff will circulate regular back-to-school information & materials such as class lists, schedules and permission forms.
- **September 8** - first day of school

Please review the following links for more information about BC's updated Education Restart Plan:

- [K-12 Education Restart Plan](#)
- [COVID-19 Return to School](#)
- [Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)

We greatly look forward to welcoming all of our students back to school in September. If you have pressing questions, please feel free to contact any member of our Administration Team:

- Matt Driediger, Principal (mdriediger@vcs.cs)
- Melannie Armanini, SC Vice Principal (marmanini@vcs.ca)
- Jesse Zuidhof, EC Vice Principal (jzuidhof@vcs.ca)
- Doug Allen, Educational Support Services (dallen@vcs.ca)
- Steve Gutknecht, Director of Development (sgutknecht@vcs.ca)
- Rosemary Kumlin, Business Administrator (rkumlin@vcs.ca)