



Lori Wilder, *Director of Education*

# Bluewater District School Board

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July 30, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Minister of Education Stephen Lecce announced today that some school boards in Ontario will begin the 2020 – 2021 school year using a conventional full return model for both elementary and secondary. Bluewater District School Board is one of those boards. [Click here to view today's media release by the provincial government.](#)

This means that on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, Bluewater District School Board elementary and secondary students can return to school on a full-time basis with enhanced public health protocols in place to maximize safety.

We are now in the process of presenting to the Ministry of Education our return to school plan developed by our planning team. In the coming days, we will share the full details with you once our plan is confirmed. A new page has also been created on our board website at [www.bwdsb.on.ca/Parents/Return to School](http://www.bwdsb.on.ca/Parents/Return_to_School), where the details of our plan and new information will be posted. Updates will also be shared on Bluewater District School Board's Facebook and Twitter pages.

We are planning and preparing, in collaboration with Public Health, to support the health, safety, and well-being of our students, staff, and families every step of the way. The Ministry of Education has emphasized that a conventional full return to school in September is voluntary, and ultimately, based on parent/guardian choice. For parents/guardians who choose not to send their children back to school in September, remote learning will be provided.

We hope that a conventional full return to school will restore some stability for families who have spent the past several months trying to manage work, childcare, and remote learning responsibilities, among other challenges.

As directed by the ministry, our board has also conducted extensive back-up planning should we be required, at any time, to switch to an adapted model of combined in school and remote learning, or fully return to at home remote learning. Should there be a surge in COVID-19 cases in Ontario, we must be prepared for these different models of delivery and the flexibility to shift between them.

We hope today's news allows you to start planning accordingly for September. As always, we will continue to keep you informed as we move through this transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lori Wilder'.

Lori Wilder  
Director of Education