

September 3, 2020

To: BRSD Parents / Guardians

From: Rita Marler

Re: Here we go!

Hello everyone.

This is the week that we officially kick off the 2020-2021 school year.

For many of us, back-to-school has been on our minds for weeks – even months.

Here in BRSD there have been people working hard all summer to ensure plans are in place, buildings are ready and staff have what they need to welcome students back to school after all this time apart.

So many things feel familiar about back to school – from counting down the last days of summer to shopping for supplies and getting back into a school night sleep routine.

But there are things that feel different, too.

New practices for entering school buildings, physically distanced ways of greeting students and parents, face coverings – these all feel strange and a bit uncomfortable.

For the first time, BRSD has offered families a choice of in-person or at-home learning. We're excited to have this opportunity available. There are about 770 students who will be served at home this fall, taking part in a whole new way of program delivery.

In reality, there is not one of us who has any experience with a year like this one, or who can even predict with certainty what this year may bring.

One thing I do know is that, in BRSD, we're all here because we believe in education and we believe in children. Whether your children are being served at school or at home, whatever their needs may be, there is no one better equipped than the staff in schools to rise up and do what it takes to support students.

Every single one of us is learning as we go. With patience and mutual support, we will navigate through it together.

*Rita Marler*