



**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING  
INFORMATION SHEET**

DATE: October 5, 2022  
TO: Education Committee  
FROM: Don Balcombe, Assistant Superintendent and  
Jacquie Poulin, Assistant Superintendent  
SUBJECT: School Start-Up

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### **Background**

This Information Sheet is intended to provide the Committee with an update on school start-up.

The planning for school start-up began back in February with enrolment projections. Staffing was allocated in late April, and enrolment was tracked throughout the summer in anticipation of the new school year. In late August and early September, as registration was confirmed, the following schools had additional staffing assigned to address enrolment increases or class size and composition challenges:

Cilaire Elementary, Departure Bay, Ladysmith Intermediate, Park Avenue Elementary, Qwam Qwum Stuwixwulh, and Uplands Elementary School each had a new division created. Most schools throughout the district were organized into classrooms by Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. During the first week of school, a variety of instructional approaches were utilized, including cross-grade and whole-grade activities focused on welcoming students and building community.

Cedar Secondary, John Barsby Community School, Dover Bay Secondary, Wellington Secondary, and Nanaimo District Secondary School each had additional blocks of time added to their schedule. Schools with linear grade 8 and 9 programs focused on core curriculum competencies. Grade 10 students throughout the district are enrolled in English First Peoples 10 this year, to meet the new Indigenous-focused graduation requirement.

Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 School Settings allowed for a smooth start-up to the year. Many of the COVID-19-related restrictions were removed and students and staff returned to school with bright smiles and positive energy. A return to more typical September activities and events has provided a sense of normalcy to schools. Open-house events, Terry Fox runs, extra-curricular sports, and clubs have launched with enthusiasm.

The pandemic has impacted schools, families, and our communities. As a district we are emphasizing the importance of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion as focal points for our work to meet the needs of our learners, our staff, and our families.