

Dear Don Ross Families,

I hope this message finds you well. To all of our returning DRM students, welcome back. To all of our students new to DRM we are so pleased to have you join our learning community.

I want to say how impressed I am by how students and staff have been adjusting to our new routines. We have used the past few days to monitor our plan, to practice, refine and adjust (noted below).

I would also like to recognize that it is going to take time to get used to all of our new structures and routines. Please know that we are working hard at DRM to provide safe, powerful and purposeful learning environments for your children while continuing to follow the guidelines of both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

Additionally, thank you to all of the families that have reached out to us with words of encouragement and thanks, it is deeply appreciated.

All the best,

Cory Hartling
Principal
Don Ross Middle School

Please see below:

DRM Safety Plan for COVID-19 Exposure

Our team has updated our [DRM Safety Plan for COVID-19 Exposure Control](#). All updates can be found highlighted in yellow. Thank you for taking the time to carefully review the contents of this plan.

A few key areas of note:

- 1) As mentioned in a previous communication to families, **we will be closing our upper driveway at DRM from 2:40 - 3:00 Monday -Thursday and 1:40-2:00 on Friday**. This is being done to increase space for students to physically distance as they make their way to the bus. Parents are asked to please pick their children up from the lower parking lot. A DRM staff member will be present to help direct traffic.
- 2) We will no longer be staggering our exit times at the end of the day. Students will be **dismissed at 3:00 Monday-Thursday and 2:00 on Friday**. Based on our observations,

it was agreed that focusing on staggered physical exits (assigned to learning groups) would meet the standard of reducing congestion. Furthermore, by dismissing students closer to bus arrival times it will reduce wait times for students. The updated schedule can be found by [clicking here](#). We also hope that this makes things more convenient for parents who are picking their children up.

Communication Updates

It has come to our attention that all @hotmail email addresses are currently being either blocked or significantly delayed. This appears to be a province-wide issue that our student information system provider has brought up to Microsoft. We recognize that many of you with an @hotmail account may not receive this (or will be delayed in receiving it) but we did want to communicate this technical challenge. We hope that this will be quickly addressed and we apologize for the inconvenience.

DRM will be in regular communication with families throughout the course of the year. Please ensure that we have updated contact information by emailing mhurlbert@sd48.bc.ca. We would also like to encourage families to regularly check our DRM [website](#) and to consider downloading our [school news app](#).

Reminders

A reminder to families to monitor their children [daily for symptoms](#). Please do not send your child to school if any symptoms are present.

Additional reminders can be found in our [prep sheet for families](#).

Learning Support, Counselling Support and Outreach Support

Learning Support

There is a great team at DRM that is ready to support. If your child needs specific support with their learning please reach out as follows:

- 1) Learning Group Teachers/Support Staff
- 2) Specific Case Manager (if child with an individual education plan)
- 3) Grade Level Learning Services Liaisons
 - Grade 7 → Jennie Rowsell (jrowsell@sd48.bc.ca)
 - Grade 8 → Leah MacPherson (lmacpherson@sd48.bc.ca)
 - Grade 9 → Charlene Verbeek (cverbeek@sd48.bc.ca)

Counselling Support

If your child requires any mental health/emotional support please reach out to our counselling staff:

Stan Thomson (sthomson@sd48.bc.ca)

Brandi Heisterman (bheisterman@sd48.bc.ca)

Outreach Support

Our Connect staff is also available to support learners as is our Aboriginal Student Support Team:

Jennie Rowsell (teacher-lead)

Teresa Lacroix (Child Youth Care Worker)

Maureen Baker (Aboriginal Support Worker)

Anthony Joseph (Aboriginal Student Support Worker)

Cynthia Lewis (Aboriginal Outreach Worker)

Nina Jacobsen (Aboriginal Success Advisor)

Admin Team

The admin team at DRM remains available to support all DRM students/families with all aspects of their education. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to one of us:

Cory Hartling (Principal) chartling@sd48.bc.ca

Shaun Jakob (Vice Principal) sjakob@sd48.bc.ca

Jenelle Kresak (Vice Principal) jkresak@sd48.bc.ca