

Greater Victoria School District Joint Statement

Over the past two weeks, our world has been rapidly transforming and we have felt what change looks like for our learning community amidst a global pandemic. We have seen firsthand how our students, staff, families and community are being profoundly impacted as we all try to navigate a new reality.

In conversations with all of our partners groups we felt it was important to reach out to all of our staff and reassure everyone that this a time to move slowly. We need to remain calm and measured as we work to create an entirely new learning and care environment that is safe for both staff and students.

As our plans and direction can shift quickly in these uncertain times, we recognize there are many challenges and pressures that will arise for all of us. We also understand that many people are seeking answers and looking for solutions immediately. We would like to remind our staff, to take a breath and know you have the full support of your colleagues and educational partners.

As we move forward, we must ensure we are developing a long-term strategy and implementing a sustainable learning framework that will support all our students and staff for many weeks to come. Our entire team is working incredibly hard to ensure we have alternative learning opportunities that are safe, accessible and achievable for all.

At the Greater Victoria School District, we have always been a learning community that recognizes how we are most successful when we are collaborative and compassionate towards one another. During these times, we must remain calm and be considerate of the challenges we are all facing.

We are very proud of all our staff and those who have stepped up in these times of need. Our members of the Victoria Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association (VPVPA), Greater Victoria Teachers' Association (GVTA), CUPE 382 and 947, and Allied Specialists' Association (ASA), all play an important role in building a strong foundation for the success of our students and staff.

Our schools and buildings are critical in supporting social health and well-being. We are an essential fabric in our community and must take care of ourselves and each other to continue to best care for those in our broader community. We must continue to lead by example and step forward together during these unprecedented times.

We want to extend our greatest appreciation to our members who helped prepare our buildings for the return from spring break, who are working from home, and those who will be on the front lines next week to assist with childcare. Your contribution to our community is ensuring the health and safety of others in our community.

We want to thank all of you for the many hours and for your leadership. You are essential.

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of Schools

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