

June 4, 2020

To: Families of Battle River Schools

From: Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools

Re: Welcome to June!

Hello everyone.

This is usually the time of year when classes are wrapping up, exams are getting underway and we are focused on recognizing and celebrating the year's successes.

Some things are definitely different this June, but celebrating successes has never been more important. As students and families make their way through the final weeks of this school year, we celebrate **you** for adapting to this temporary, at-home reality and making the best of things in recent months.

We also celebrate the incredible effort of school staff who, with only a few hours notice, embraced the challenge of moving instruction to an online format and who continue to seek new, innovative ways of helping both students and parents move learning forward.

We are all happy that playground structures are reopening and we are all enjoying the creative ways in which high schools are celebrating the milestone of graduation, even without a formal ceremony. The last day of school for students is June 19. Staff will prepare report cards for June 26, then close their own chromebooks for the summer.

A new opportunity has just been announced for students who were eligible to take a diploma exam in April or June to write that exam in August. It is not a requirement, but if this is of interest please contact your school to let them know, so BRSD can make sure there is appropriate space and resources available.

As we look ahead, we recognize there is still a lot of change and uncertainty. We know that, due to funding and program changes, every school will be different next year. Some families will be part of different schools. Every school's staffing will be different and some staff members will not be returning.

And, of course, there continues to be uncertainty about how education will be provided in September. Parents, as well as students in Grades 4 to 12, received a link to an anonymous, voluntary survey this week, with questions about your priorities and concerns for safely returning to school. Well over 1000 people have already shared their thoughts – we hope you will too! We should have let parents know in advance that children as young as Grade 4 were being included in the survey, but neglected to do that, for which I apologize. I do appreciate you supporting your children, especially those who are younger, to share their perspective with us. It's not mandatory for anyone to take part, but we really do want to hear your voices. The deadline to participate is June 15.

We will share results back later in June and also keep you up to date on plans being made by both the province and the school division as they become known.

Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools