

September 4th, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

With shorter days and crisp evenings upon us, I want to take this opportunity to welcome you all back and wish you a bright 2018-2019 school year. I hope everyone found time to enjoy the company of friends and family this summer and that you all got some much-deserved rest and relaxation.

Our vision to "... inspire student success by providing an innovative, caring and responsive learning environment," is a collective goal supported by our five-year [2021 Strategic Plan](#). As we ready to welcome new and returning students throughout the District, I feel strongly that staff throughout the District aspire to our vision through their commitment, passion and expertise. With this focus, we will continue to build upon our strengths and successes. From a staffing standpoint, we are proud that the School District staffing compliment is strong, with more than 3,000 teachers, 900 teachers teaching-on-call and 600 school and student support assistants. Also this year, four teacher mentors join our team to support newly hired teachers and three curriculum support mentors as well as a block of curriculum support in every secondary school. With the upcoming municipal election, we know our Board's make up will change. Collectively, the District is grateful to those who served and those who are standing as candidates. I am encouraged by their commitment to further build a strong public education system. We continue to pursue our outreach and advocacy with the Ministry of Education. Indeed, we are heartened by the productive conversations with all our partners and stakeholders. These relationships, particularly with our stakeholders, are fundamental to a high performing public education system in Vancouver and beyond.

Together we share a focus on continuing to improve outcomes for children in an effort to give them their best life chances. I hope you join me in looking forward to our continued collaboration as educators and staff with our stakeholders over the next 10 months, to advance a stronger School District with student success at its heart.

May the 2018-2019 school year be one of professional fulfillment and personal growth!



Suzanne Hoffman
Superintendent of Schools