

September 2023

Dear Students, Parent-Guardians, and Community members,

Welcome to a great year of learning which will be created in the spirit of **ʔiisaak** and will be guided by the important concept of **hišukʔiš čawaak**. We are proud of the work that we do in our schools but, we are aware that more work is needed to build momentum for change and to improve school success for all Indigenous learners. Our goal is to work closely with parents-guardians, families, and communities to provide the best learning environment possible.

The Ministry of Education provides additional funding to provide academic and cultural programs for Indigenous learners (First Nations, Metis, and Inuit) in our school district. Each school has different programs, activities, and events to support the continued academic development and the development of positive personal and cultural identity of all indigenous learners through Indigenous Teachers, Indigenous Support Workers and Nuuchahnulth Education Workers.

Our goal is to assist every learner to develop the skills, abilities and personal characteristics that will enable them to have the best life chance possible...to be able to walk with comfort between the traditional and the contemporary worlds to achieve their dreams.

If you would like to self-declare your First Nations, Metis, or Inuit heritage, please take a moment to fill in the self-declaration form below or verify your information on the Student Information data form sent to you by your school. We would like to have the most up to date information possible so that we can continue to provide additional services to your child.

Self-Declaration of First Nations, Metis, or Inuit Ancestry

1. Student identifies as an Indigenous person Yes No
a. If **yes**, please proceed:

Legal First Name: _____ Legal Last Name: _____

Legal Middle Name(s): _____ Date of Birth: _____

2. I identify as: Status on reserve Status off reserve non-Status Inuit Metis*

3. If you identify as a First Nation person, which Nation are you registered with or do you identify with? (For example: Tla-o-qui-aht, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ, Hupačasath, Huu-ay-aht, Tseshah or another Nation)

a. _____

4. Do you consent to sharing of information with your Nations. They may be able to provide additional support to your child(ren) regarding academic, social emotional or attendance concerns.

Yes No

5. *If you identify as Metis:

a. are you registered with Metis Nation of BC? Yes No

b. *Are you registered with the Alberni Clayoquot Metis Society? Yes No

c. *If you answered no to the above questions, are you aware there are supports for families from birth to university for families that are registered with Metis Nation of BC or Alberni Clayoquot Metis Society. Yes No

d. Would you be interested in learning more about these groups? Yes No