to the WCDSB International Community:

I hope all of you are healthy and well, and enjoying the summer time. I know for the international community we need to adapt our mindset to keep us focused on travel, the need to quarantine, and what school look like in September. Yesterday, the Province of Ontario answered one of those questions by announcing a return to school plan. Today, the province provided direction that all elementary students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 will return to school full time. All Secondary school students Grades 9 to 12, will return in an adapted model with 50% in class time and 50% online synchronous learning. Today, the Waterloo Catholic District School Board has outlined initial plans for implementation of these two strategies. You can find the introduction of the plan with links to all of the details on our website, www.wcdsb.ca. For an overview, please see the attached document. We will continue to provide you with updates as new information becomes available.

To all of our students and their families, I hope you are well and finding ways to enjoy the summer, albeit a very different one. At Waterloo Catholic we have missed seeing our staff and students in our schools – we think that you would agree. We also know however, that all of us feel very strongly that if we are to return to our schools, we have to do so in a very safe and thoughtful manner. In the attached package, you will find a high-level introduction to all of the factors that we have been considering as we plan for the return of students. We know that we all want good learning to happen, however, that all of us feel very strongly that if we are to return to our schools, we have to do so in a very safe and healthy, in mind, body and spirit.

There are some discussions that are ongoing and which may cause minor adjustments to our models or plans, but in the main, the plan is to start in understanding our plans for the fall. Our new collective reality under COVID has tested all of us, and we know that things are evolving daily and understanding about best practices and the disease itself also continues to grow. Our commitment is to be informed by new knowledge as it becomes available and we will be sure to respond.

Wishing you health and wellness in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Dan Witt, Chief Operating Officer

International Education, Waterloo Catholic District School Board