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Good Afternoon Grand Erie Families,

Today, Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Education Stephen Lecce announced the government's plan for the reopening of schools in the fall.

The plan includes three options: the continuation of learning at home; a return to in-school instruction with enhanced health and safety protocols; and, an adaptive learning model that features a combination of learning at home and in-school instruction with limited class sizes and alternating days or weeks.

The adaptive learning model provides for a maximum of 15 students per classroom, per day. It also requires students to register prior to the start of the school year so that class assignments and timetables can be set in advance. If the adaptive learning model is selected for the start of the 2020-21 school year, the decision will be re-evaluated at the end of September based on direction from health officials.

Over the next month, the Ministry of Education is asking all school boards to develop operational plans to match the three options announced today. Grand Erie will have these plans in place by the end of July. **The Board will share specific details on back-to-school plans with students and families in August.**

Minister Lecce also noted there will be protocols for personal protective equipment, enhanced cleaning, transportation and instances where a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

Grand Erie's school-year calendar for next year has not yet been approved by the Ministry of Education. **Currently, the first day of school is set for Tuesday, September 8.**

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Blancher".

Director of Education