

March 20, 2020

Parents, guardians and families,

In any normal year, our staff and students would herald the start of spring with excitement, optimism and a well-earned break. Obviously this isn't a normal year. Our students are working through major changes to their day-to-day routines, for the coming weeks and months.

### Student learning

I know you have many questions about how teaching and learning will happen after spring break. This past week, our principals and school staff have been working hard to develop plans for continuity of instruction when students return on March 30. They will be in touch with you after spring break to share what those plans look like for your child and your school.

We need to acknowledge that it won't be the same. Online learning is quite different from face-to-face delivery. We will need to begin slowly as we provide an orientation to you and your children for online instruction. The first week will all be about getting comfortable with new processes and technology. Where possible, we need to get students online. If you have specific technological questions or needs, please reach out to your school.

This will take some time to adjust to, and I want to thank you in advance for your patience as we all learn how to accomplish this together.

### Grade progression

Every student will receive a final grade and will receive a final report card, appropriate to their grade level. Teachers will be assessing student learning over the next couple of months, as they continue their learning. We will be working hard to cover the curriculum for our students to progress to the next grade.

### Grade 12 students

Today, the provincial government announced cancellation of all diploma examinations. And even though that final assessment won't take place, our staff are working hard to assess student learning so our students are prepared for their transition to post-secondary studies or the world of work.

Students who are on track to receive 100 or more credits will still be eligible to graduate and receive a high school diploma. If you have questions about your child's specific circumstances, please contact your child's school.

### We are in this together

These are unprecedented times. This new reality is testing our creativity, ingenuity and resolve in many ways. What I do know is that our school staff are committed. They care about your kids, about continuing the relationships they've built with you, and about finding new and different ways to support student learning.

I hope that you have a safe and relaxing spring break. We are looking forward to connecting with you on March 30.



Darrel Robertson  
Superintendent of Schools