

November 25, 2020

Dear parents, families and guardians,

Yesterday, the provincial government announced a number of changes and new restrictions across the province as Alberta's COVID-19 cases continue to rise. I know we're all concerned about the record-setting numbers and the potential that has to affect our schools.

Throughout November, we have seen increased case counts in our schools. Because schools reflect our broader community, this hasn't come as a surprise. We continue to do everything we can to keep our staff and students safe and thank you for your continued support and shared commitment.

Junior high and high schools move online

The province announced that all Grade 7-12 students learning in person will move to online learning starting November 30, with a return to in-person learning on January 11, 2021. It is important to note that classes resume on January 4, 2021. The province did not extend the winter recess for schools.

This transition will take effect on December 1, 2020, as November 30 is a teacher-directed Professional Development Day. In the coming days, schools will be working hard to prepare for this transition, ensuring students have what they need to learn online. Please note that this only affects our families who have selected in-person learning. There are no changes for our online learners.

The province also announced that diploma exams will be optional for the remainder of the year.

Elementary students

The province also announced that our early learners in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6 will remain in schools until December 18, 2020, learning from home from January 4 to January 8, and returning to in-person learning on January 11, 2021. For clarity, the province did not extend winter recess for schools. More information about our approach to at-home learning from January 4 to January 8 for those students whose families have selected in-person learning for Quarter 2 will be shared in the coming days.

It is important to note that there are no changes for our online learners.

Additional restrictions

The province also announced additional measures throughout the province. Please [read more](#).

Keeping one another safe

As we enter the last month of 2020, the virus continues to test our patience and our resolve. But amid such uncertainty, I am continually inspired and heartened by what's happening in our online and in-person learning environments. Our students are learning, engaged and adapting well. Our staff are showing their innovation, ingenuity and commitment to student learning. Our families are supportive partners in their children's learning. We have many reasons to be thankful.

Be well and stay safe.

Sincerely,



Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools