



March 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I want to first say “Thank You” to all of the Health Care Workers, First Responders, and other Essential Workers who are on the front line battling the COVID-19 pandemic in our community, province and country. We salute your efforts! These are unprecedented times and, with the guidance of provincial and federal health authorities, which includes strictly adhering to social distancing of a minimum of six feet, and washing our hands frequently with soap and water, we will stop the spread of this virus in all our communities. Let us continue to be steadfast in our efforts!

As you are aware, the provincial government [announced](#) on March 17 that all in-class instruction in BC schools was suspended indefinitely. Since that announcement, the school district leadership team has been working to determine how to maintain supports for students and families in our community, with planning continuing through the coming week of March 30. Although we do not have all of the details worked out at this time, the purpose of this letter is to provide clarity regarding expectations for the week of March 30. The health and safety of school staff, students and parents/guardians will be paramount as we continue planning next week.

Parents/Students Accessing School & Safety Protocols:

School Administration will be in touch with families to let them know when they will be able to access school buildings in order to retrieve textbooks and resources from student desks or lockers. We want to ensure that we take all of the necessary safety precautions articulated by the Provincial Health Officer before we start this process, including controlling access to buildings to limit exposure. We ask you to please be patient.

Communicating with Families in Each School Community:

Parents/Guardians will be contacted by a school staff member or your student’s classroom teacher the week of March 30 to check in and to answer any questions you may have regarding the continuation of your student’s education plan and transition to a virtual classroom environment. This could include measures such as online learning tools and/or resource packages or assignments e-mailed from teachers to parents/guardians.

This initial call will also provide staff with the opportunity to ask questions regarding your student’s access to technology, including a printer. Staff will also remind parents/guardians to complete the “Continuity of Education” [survey](#), which will be sent to all parents by their school. The “Continuity of Education” survey will provide the school district with key information to start planning to provide the services needed to support the children of our essential workers, as well as vulnerable students who may need special assistance.

Student Progress – Graduation Program:

The provincial government announced last week that every student will receive a final mark for this year, and that some graduation assessments were being postponed and students would be

able to progress to the next grade level, or graduate, as usual at the end of this school year. The Ministry also made a commitment that every Grade 12 student who has not yet completed the Grade 10 numeracy assessment and who is otherwise on track to graduate will be provided the opportunity to meet this graduation requirement.

As this crisis unfolds, events such as prom and graduation ceremonies are on “hold.” We will wait to see how our collective efforts slow down the transmission of the virus and for all of the provincial orders to be lifted before we start planning for these events in the future.

Continuity of Learning:

Next week school district staff will continue to plan to support students with outside the classroom and at-home learning opportunities. Note that the primary focus will be to identify what content needs to be delivered, evaluate curricular outcomes that have not yet been covered and prioritize remaining outcomes based on what is manageable for students working from home. Please be reassured that we will continue to offer engaging and robust learning opportunities as we migrate to a new learning modality.

Communication & Next Steps:

Please find a [link](#) to the Ministry of Education FAQs as well as a new [government website](#) with up-to-date information and resources on COVID-19 for parents/guardians.

I want to reassure you that we will continue to work as diligently as possible to best support our students and families during this challenging time. Our commitment to you is to share information in a timely fashion, as well as to post information on our [district website](#) to ensure clarity in communication. Also, please note that, as school staffs commence work after spring break, you will receive regular updates from your school principal specific to your school community.

This is, indeed, an unprecedented time but I know we will weather this storm and come out stronger given our resolve and caring for each other in this great school community. Thank you, again, for your understanding during this challenging time and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arul-pragasam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rohan Arul-pragasam
Interim School Superintendent