



March 18, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Parents, Students, Staff

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff:

As promised in my last communication to you on March 16, 2020, I am sharing the most updated information regarding how we intend to provide access to resources and online education for K-12.

At the present time, I have the following answers to some of your questions:

Q: What do I do if I have not yet accessed my child's belongings at school after this week?

A: Contact your school principal to determine the best way to gain access.

Q: When will my child receive supports through online education materials and regular communication with their teacher(s)?

A: K-6 students will start online learning through contact by their teachers on March 31st.
7-12 students will start online learning through contact by their teachers on March 30th.
Pre-K parents will be contacted by their teachers the week of March 30-April 3.

Q: Which courses or programs can we expect?

A: K-6 Core subjects (Religion, English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Physical Education/Health).

7-9 Core subjects (Religion, English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Physical Education/Health).

10-12 Core subjects (Religion, English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Sciences, Physical Education/Health) and CTS/Options as required for students to graduate and/or to meet application guidelines for post-secondary.

Q: How will that communication happen?

A: Teachers will send an email to you on the above dates with details about how they intend to meet with your child through scheduled classes, small groups, or one-on-one times and by what means (i.e., Google, email).

Q: What do we do if we do not have access to a computer or Internet?

A: During the week of March 30-April 3, contact your school principal who has a designated number of devices to loan that have been disinfected and that are Internet-enabled. If you do not have Internet, paper copies of assignments will be supplied, so please contact your school principal to access them.



Q: Will my child have access to counselling and other specialized supports?

A: Yes, your child who has been receiving regular counselling or who was scheduled for counselling will have continued access to counselling. The counsellor will contact you (parent or legal guardian) to set up counselling times through digital means during the week of March 30 – April 3, 2020. Information regarding therapeutic supports such as speech and language for Pre-K and K children will be available the first week back after Spring Break (March 30-April 3).

Q: Will my child receive a final grade in their courses?

A: Yes, this is the goal of a provincial strategy towards online programming.

Q: Will my child take provincial achievement tests?

A: No, provincial achievement tests have been cancelled for April, May, and June 2020.

Q: Will my child take diploma examinations?

A: At this time, we do not yet have information about this; however, we will communicate information about this when it is confirmed by the ministry.

Q: Does my high school child need to complete courses if there are no scheduled diploma exams?

A: Yes, the ministry has confirmed that all students who are eligible to graduate will have an opportunity to complete the necessary courses to graduate. The ministry will be communicating the way that marks will be determined. We will keep you apprised of forthcoming information.

I am very proud of the efforts of our staff to adapt their skills to a new way of programming delivery under such narrow timelines and workplace restrictions. As GSACRD moves forward with this new online learning approach to program delivery, we expect that there will be moments in which everyone will need to continue to exercise patience. We appreciate your willingness to be flexible and to work as partners to support your child's educational programming. Please look forward to ongoing updates as information is available.

Sincerely,
David Keohane, Superintendent of Schools