

April 26, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As promised, we will continue to check in weekly with any updates or new information that needs to be shared with SD 91 families. This is quickly becoming our new normal and I am continually amazed at the creative and caring ways in which our teachers and support staff are connecting with our students. I have seen everything from creative activity packages that contain both reinforcement of learning as well as a variety of indoor / outdoor family activities to digital ways in which our teachers are connecting directly with groups of students. I know how important the relationship to teachers is for your children and I know that our educators are committed to staying connected to the students they serve and care about.

If you have questions specific to your child's learning, please contact your child's teacher or school directly. Our schools are not closed, and we have a variety of staff there to help support parents but given health and safety protocols, please call the school as a first step.

Some quick updates this week:

GRADUATION 2020

Given what we know today from Dr. Bonnie Henry, **normal graduation ceremonies and associated dances and proms will be cancelled for this year**. I am sad to write this as graduation is an important milestone for our students and families and a time of celebration for our communities. Although the normal graduation ceremonies have been cancelled, please know that our high schools are thinking creatively around how they might recognize and provide something specific to our 2020 graduates. Schools will share their specific plans over the coming weeks, but I did want to confirm the cancellation of normal graduation activities.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS / GRADUATION / STUDENT ASSESSMENTS¹

- All students – including students who are on track to graduate – are expected to complete course work assigned by teachers.
- As in any given school year, students on track or eligible to graduate will be able to graduate provided the student has completed sufficient learning in their coursework. This includes what they have learned since the course started, along with the learning they will complete from now until the end of the school year.
 - To be “eligible to graduate” means a student will satisfy all graduation requirements upon successful completion of courses they currently have underway and are

¹ Taken from Ministry of Education K – 12 FAQ Document

continuing through to June 2020. This does not mean that students will graduate no matter what.

- Sufficient learning will be determined by teachers using their professional judgement. Grounded in the curriculum, teachers will assess what individual students know, understand, and are able to demonstrate to determine whether enough learning has taken place to enable the student to pursue further learning in the curricular and content area. April 17, 2020 10
- Students are expected to continue their learning for each course they are enrolled in and to complete assignments set out by their teachers to finish their courses. These assignments must be reasonable for each student in their home learning environment, recognizing that it is not a regular classroom.
 - Teachers will work with students to develop plans and set reasonable expectations given the current circumstances and the individual needs of the students.
 - This will be guided by the plans and priorities set out by districts and schools for continuity of learning at the local level, recognizing that many students may not have easy access to specific learning resources.
- The previously scheduled April 2020 graduation assessment administration has been cancelled. The Ministry is assessing a range of options to ensure this graduation requirement can be met by those students who are otherwise on track to graduate this year.
- The only graduation assessment required for current Grade 12 students is the Grade 10 numeracy assessment. The Ministry is assessing a range of options to ensure this graduation requirement can be met by those students who are otherwise on track to graduate this year.
- Teachers and Principals will support all students as part of the continuity of learning and help those students who may need additional supports to meet graduation requirements.
- The Ministry of Education is also working with post-secondary institutions to ensure graduating students will transition successfully

WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

As much as we would all like to return to a regular school year, all public school districts take their direction from the Ministry of Education who in turn takes direction from the Provincial Health Officer when it comes to reopening schools.

Current plans are that we will continue with supporting our students until June 25th, the scheduled last day of class for this school year.

Please continue to be safe and accept our gratitude for supporting your children's learning.

Sincerely,

Manu Madhok
Superintendent of Schools