

April 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING

I am hoping that you are all well as can be expected given the circumstances. Please know how much we appreciate your support and patience as our teachers work to make remote learning work for yourselves and your children. Our teachers will continue to communicate with families and students to make sure learning is manageable and positive, and to make sure students feel connected and supported as they continue to learn.

In talking with our principals and teachers, I know that our educators are creating lesson plans for students based on your responses to what will work best for your family. This includes being thoughtful as to ways and frequency of contact, thinking about the types of learning materials that will work best for your family and working together to ensure that you and your children are not overwhelmed.

What you can expect in the coming weeks is for our teachers to check in regularly and ensure that learning supports and materials are provided while also helping parents navigate learning at home challenges.

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS & ADDITIONAL SCHOOL SUPPORTS

If your child was receiving other school supports such as speech or occupational therapy or counselling and you would like these supports to continue, please contact your child's teacher. In addition, if your child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), their case manager or teacher has been or will be in touch with you to discuss supports.

TECHNOLOGY

School District 91, like many other school districts, will be using Microsoft Teams and Office 365 rather than Zoom as our digital platform for connecting to students and parents where needed.

Your students can access:

- Office 365 by going to www.office.com, or the [Student Resources Page](#) on the school district website.
- Microsoft TEAMS by going to <https://teams.microsoft.com> or the [Student Resources Page](#) on the sd91 website.

There are some excellent online training resources for Microsoft Teams located [HERE](#)

MAKING LEARNING FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES MANAGEABLE

Teachers are using the B.C. curriculum to plan learning yet to happen at school while balancing with what is manageable for students learning at home

<p>PRIMARY STUDENTS (grades K – 3) can expect to engage in:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning experiences with a focus on the core skills of literacy and numeracy as well as activities that promote a sense of belonging and emotional well being. • Parents that have questions about how to structure their daily or weekly time should consult their teacher.
<p>INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS (grades 4 – 6) can expect to engage in:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning experiences with a focus on literacy and numeracy learning standards with opportunities to incorporate science and social studies outcomes through cross curricular learning as well as activities that promote a sense of belonging and emotional well being. • Parents that have questions about how to structure their daily or weekly time should consult their teacher.
<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS (grades 7 – 9) can expect to engage in:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning experiences with a focus on literacy and numeracy learning standards with opportunities to incorporate science and social studies outcomes through cross curricular learning. • Additional learning opportunities through elective course activities where appropriate as well as activities that promote a sense of belonging and emotional well being. • Parents that have questions about how to structure their daily or weekly time should consult their teacher.
<p>HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (grades 10 – 12) can expect to engage in:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning experiences with a focus on specified and core courses required for high school graduation, including English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Sciences, Languages and other elective courses where appropriate; • activities that promote a sense of belonging and emotional wellbeing. • Students graduating will engage in the completion of Career Life Connections and the completion of their capstone graduation portfolios.

ASSESSMENT/REPORTING

As students continue to work on the learning opportunities provided by their teachers, families can expect their children to receive feedback on how they are doing. Families should also expect:

- teachers to prepare year-end report cards for each student for June;
- teachers to determine a final grade/assessment for each student based on a combination of work completed before spring break and the learning that will happen at home; and
- that the evaluation of learning at home will be based on a manageable level of learning activities that students are able to complete at home.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME

We know learning at home will be different. Teachers will be working with students and families to help make learning successful for each student. Here are some helpful ways you can support your children at home:

- Set up a learning space for your child
- Each week, engage in discussion with your child about their learning schedules and provide support where required
- Help them stay connected to others and manage emotional wellness
- Engage in activities that support physical wellbeing
- Have fun learning together and practice patience with one another
- Please feel free to ask questions and connect to your child's teachers, especially if you would like clarification or additional support

PARENTS OF GRADE 12 STUDENTS

We know that this year's graduation ceremonies are on the thoughts of our grade 12 students and their families. We have not made any final decisions on ceremonies yet and are awaiting continued guidance from public health as to what may or may not be possible.

For students who have or will be applying to post secondary institutions, please know that semester 1 marks and your interim mark from term 3 will be entered into MyEDBC prior to April 24th to ensure that post secondary institutions can access marks for acceptance. If students and / or parents have specific questions for post-secondary institutions, please contact that school directly. Parents who have questions about semester 2 course progress should contact teachers directly for an update as the next formal report card will be at the end of June.

We are working with high schools to outline scholarship processes and you can expect communication directly from your high schools.

As always, thank you working together with us to support your children.

Sincerely,

Manu Madhok
Superintendent of Schools