



April 9, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Staff:

Re: [COVID-19 Information Bulletin](#)

Before we break for the long weekend, I want to update and share more information to help prepare you for the weeks ahead. We know this has been a trying time for our community and we assure you we are here alongside you to provide support.

First, I'd like to express my gratitude to everyone for their cooperation as we navigate and develop plans and implement new systems. I want to highlight our maintenance and support staff who have stepped up to ensure all of our operations are in place, connected with families, and have helped maintain healthy and safe environments for our students and staff.

This week we established our Learning Hubs at five elementary schools and were prepared to care for 65 children of Essential Service Workers. The system is working well and the initial feedback from staff and parents has been positive. As the need continues to grow, we will adjust to ensure we have the proper supports in place to serve families to allow for continuity of learning. A big thank you to all staff that have made this a smooth transition. Your assistance gives our health care workers and first responders the ability to keep fighting this crisis. We appreciate all frontline workers for their work in caring for our community.

As we begin the formal delivery of instruction next week, I want to remind families that there is a lot of learning that can be accomplished before June. Our goal in our Continuity of Learning Plan is to do more than maintain learning but also to transform learning. The Ministry has set out clear guidelines for graduation and student assessments this year which families should take note of:

- Teachers will determine a final grade for students based on work completed to date and the assessment of learning that will occur over the coming months.
- 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 continuing through to June 2020. This does not mean that students will graduate "no matter what".

Please read more about the Continuity of Learning in the recently updated Ministry's [FAQs](#) or the District's [FAQs](#). For provincial and District updates visit our District's [COVID-19 webpage](#). This week, schools sent out our Parent Guide For Supporting Your Child's Learning which can also be found [here](#). We encourage you to review this document to help prepare your family for the months ahead.

I know this holiday weekend will look very different for many families. I wish you a healthy, safe, and meaningful time with your families. Whether it is getting some fresh air or connecting virtually with loved ones, be sure to take a break before at-home learning begins next week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gord Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gord Stewart
Superintendent of Schools