

June 19, 2020

Dear parents/guardians,

Thank you.

Thank you for your support, patience and willingness to make the best out of the last few months of this school year. Together, teachers, schools, parents and guardians, and of course our students, pulled together to create distance learning opportunities in homes across our division. On behalf of the senior administration team, I'd like to say we're incredibly proud of our division staff, our students and you—our parents and guardians—for everything that you've done amidst great challenges to support learning during this time.

Our staff are planning for re-entry in September; considering multiple scenarios on what teaching and learning might look like in our schools. First and foremost on our priority list is ensuring a safe return to school by following the most up-to-date health guidelines from our provincial officials. As only time will tell what phase we will be in come September, it's important for all of us to be open to the possibility of the continuation of distance learning, or a combination of in-class and home learning if required. We will do everything we can to have students safely return to their classrooms, however, this decision will be made by provincial officials in late summer. With this in mind, we will be updating parents weekly on the [retsdb.ca](https://www.retsd.mb.ca) website over the summer. These weekly updates will provide you with information we receive from the province and from division, the decision we have made based on that information, and the impact they may have with fall re-entry.

As we wrap up the 2019–20 school year, there are a couple items to be aware of:

Year-end report cards:

All students will receive a report card, available on the parent portal, at 10 a.m. on June 30. IEP reports will be printed and distributed.

Parents will notice that the final report card is different than previous years. Student achievement is based on what teachers had assessed as of March 20 and includes any improved learning since then.

There will also be a comment that describes the engagement in remote learning of each student. In the Learning Behaviours there is a category called "Active Participation in Learning." Teachers will be assessing the range of participation in remote learning in this area. This category is the only place where marks may show a decrease from March 20.

Subject area comments will describe the learning that was offered during remote learning and indicate any additional instruction that may be needed in the fall. This information will be consistent in all the divisions in the province.

We realize that every family has had unique circumstances and we appreciate all the support families have provided. No student will be held back due to COVID-19. Schools are preparing to meet students where they are with their learning when they return in the fall. There is no need to worry that your child will be behind due to the suspension of classes—we will be addressing all needs.

Please ensure your login credentials for the parent portal are working and contact the school prior to the end of the school year if you need assistance.

We want to hear from you:

As we plan for a possible return to in-class learning in the fall, we want input from parents and guardians on how we can best support students with the transition. Please use the link below to participate in a Thoughtexchange survey. In the Thoughtexchange survey, you tell us your thoughts, and then you can rate the suggestions others provide to help us know which supports are most important to all parents (1 star for strongly disagree and 5 for strongly agree). Information you provide will help us plan to welcome students back to our schools and classrooms in the new school year. Be sure to come back to rate the thoughts of others anytime between now and June 26th. We will use this information to continue to plan for September and it's important we hear from as many families as we can.

Thoughtexchange link: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/718276931>

Take time this summer to enjoy the sunshine. Thank you for all you do to support our school community. We could not have done what we have over the last few months without your support.

Sincerely,



Kelly Barkman
Superintendent/CEO