

April 28, 2020

To Parents/Guardians,

The health and well-being of our students and their families is our top priority. We are doing our very best to provide support through remote learning that maintains some semblance of normalcy, which is difficult to come by these days.

Relationships are central to our work. The programming right now is intended to continue relationships with schools and teachers, provide learning opportunities, and maintain the important connections our students have to others in their school community. We also want to ensure that our high school students are prepared for next year.

All students are expected to continue learning, and we hope to make this an enriching experience for them. All student work will be connected to curriculum and IEP outcomes and, as much as possible, in their language of instruction. We're asking you to encourage students to continue their learning plans at home as much as possible. We know every family has varying circumstances that impact the way they can engage with their child's learning. That's okay; please do your best.

Manitoba Education and River East Transcona School Division are committed that no student will be held back due to the pandemic. Students on track to graduate will graduate. Students in Grades 9-12 will receive, at a minimum, the grades they achieved at the time of suspension of classes, but they will be required to engage in remote learning. Students will have the opportunity to increase marks. The goal is for students to finish the year with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for their next stage of learning. Teachers will continue to offer meaningful and engaging opportunities for learning and will continue to assess learning.

We felt it was important for you to be aware of several key points related to the suspension of classes and ongoing, remote learning:

- Manitoba Education provided guidelines for Grades 9–12 teachers to plan a minimum of three hours of curriculum-based learning per course per week for semestered courses. Students will work at their own pace and this may mean less or more hours depending on the individual learner.
- Teachers are committed to setting expectations for students in each course, and making clear those expectations by having regular, personal communication with students, parents, caregivers, and other partners. This may be done by phone, online, email, or by mail, in whatever manner works best for both the teacher and your family. Teachers are available during the regular school day to plan, teach, assess, and support student learning.
- While students will maintain the mark they received at the time of suspension of classes, that does not indicate course completion. Each course has required knowledge, skills, and competencies that will not have been completed by March 20.
- Teachers will continue to assess what students know and can do and will report this on the June report card.
- Students who do not demonstrate the required knowledge through ongoing engagement, learning, and assessment will be required to engage in recovery learning in the following school year, specifically for our students currently in Grades 9-11.

- Grade 12s should continue learning in order to be fully prepared for any post-secondary learning they may be planning. The Grade 12 provincial assessments scheduled for May/June 2020 are cancelled, but regular assessments will be done during remote learning.
- Technical-vocational teachers will continue to focus on theory learning. When regular classes resume, special efforts will be made to allow students to complete practical learning to ensure they meet certification and Apprenticeship Manitoba requirements.
- When using technology, RETSD technology use policies are applicable and need to be adhered to.
- A *My Learning at Home* portal is available to provide additional supplementary resources and support to students, parents, and caregivers. The site is available in English, French, and French Immersion formats at: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/mylearning/index.html>

Continued student engagement with their classroom teachers and specific course content is essential if students are to complete their courses without requiring recovery learning. Teachers will set priorities on learning outcomes and expectations and plan curriculum-related tasks for students. Where feasible, teachers of multiple subjects may work together to develop cross-curricular learning experiences.

We appreciate this represents a challenging time in the lives of students and families. We are here to help your child meet the expectations in each course and problem solve to ensure that meaningful learning continues during this time of pandemic.

Thank you for your patience and support as we navigate this unprecedented territory together. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, school, or division with any questions or concerns, or if you require any specific support. We are committed to your child's education.

Working with you in partnership,



Kelly Barkman
Superintendent/CEO