



Bringing Learning to Life!

Vancouver Island North School District No. 85

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Friday March 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: After Spring Break

As you all know spring break is due to end today and students were supposed to be returning to class on Monday, March 30, 2020. Unfortunately that is not the case. As I'm sure everyone is aware by now the world we live in has changed in just a few short weeks with COVID-19. Although students will not be returning to class they will still be receiving an education. All teachers will be working over the next two weeks to plan, prepare and deliver online lessons to your child.

On **April 13, 2020** we will be ready to start teaching your child remotely. Teacher's will be reaching out to you personally to set up times for lesson delivery or to give you instructions on how to access lessons or webinars. If you or your child does not have access to the internet then contact your school Principal so that we can arrange for you to receive a package of materials for your child to work through. Please make sure that your telephone and email information is up to date. Notify the school secretary as soon as possible if there have been any changes so that we can send you your child's work.

All teachers will be providing assignments, marking and grading the work that your child completes. Assuming students complete these assignments and progress in the way they are expected to they will be progressing to their next grade level next year. If your child is on track for graduation this year then they will graduate. If your child has some incomplete assignments to do then this is the time to liaise with the subject teachers and get the work done to catch up. We want to see every eligible student graduate regardless of the unusual circumstances.

The Minister for Education has assured us that all requirements for assessments for graduation have been waived this year. The only requirement is for Grade 10 numeracy assessment to have taken place. If your child is one that did not get to do this then we are assured that due to the circumstances the Ministry of Education will work with us regarding this situation so that your child can still graduate and move on to work or further education.

I know that these are uncertain times and can be frightening. Please don't let education be one of the reasons that you are concerned. We will do our best to make sure your child is not negatively impacted by this experience.

Due to Health and Safety of our staff we ask that you do not go to any of our schools or school district buildings at this time. You will be invited at a time to suit both parties to attend the school to pick up any medications left in school or to pick up personal belongings from lockers or classrooms. This will have to be a supervised visit so the areas can be disinfected after the visit.

We apologise for the inconvenience this causes but we have a duty to keep you, your child and our staff healthy, safe and well. When attending school for this appointment please only have one parent and the student who attends that school come. We appreciate your understanding regarding this.

Our School District 85 website has all the latest Minister of Health and Minister of Education news posted on it. This is updated as soon as we receive something new. Please take the time to look on there so you know what the latest advice is. I have attached a link to this letter so that you can also see some questions and answers that the Ministry of Education has posted to their web page.

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/bc-ministry-of-education-questions-and-answers-continuity-of-learning-k-12-education_system.pdf

There will be a Ministry of Education website launched today which contains resources designed for parents. These will be lessons and activities that your child can do while waiting for teachers to set up on line learning. The link will be available on the SD 85 website as soon as it is live.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask your teachers, Principals, Vice Principals and they will support you. If they can't help then please contact myself, Christina MacDonald (Assistant Superintendent), Ray McDonald (Secretary Treasurer) or Irene Isaac (Director of Instruction for Aboriginal Education). You can find all of our contact details on the SD85 website. Stay safe and well. We will be in touch via the SD85 website or through the schools to keep you up to date with the latest developments.

Yours truly,



Carol Robertson
Superintendent of Schools/CEO
School District 85
Vancouver Island North