

April 23rd, 2020

Dear Abbotsford School District families,

As we work through another week of distance learning, I want to take this opportunity to provide some updates and thank you again for your ongoing support. As a school district, we have had to quickly reshape how we do business in our schools, in our community, and in the workplace. As we continue to navigate these challenges together, we also recognize that families have also been managing substantial changes with how you live and work. It is encouraging to know that the Abbotsford community remains unwavering in its support of one another.

Continuity of Learning

Nothing can replace a teacher in a classroom or a principal in a school, yet the connections with our 20,000 students over the past few weeks have been heartwarming. From school staff parading in their own cars past students waving and cheering from inside their homes or on their lawns, to emails, letters, videos and projects, the importance of human connection during this time of physical distancing couldn't be more apparent. Teachers, students and families have been finding new ways to build community and support each other in the midst of COVID-19.

As we implement our continuity of learning plan across our schools, our educators are working to provide your child with a manageable amount of learning that will keep them engaged and ready for the classroom when we return in the future. We understand there may be further questions about remote learning, and we encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher or principal as these issues arise.

Reporting, Grading and Assessment

The Ministry of Education has communicated that every student will receive a final mark from their teachers this year. Teachers will determine a final mark based on work completed to date and the assessment of learning that will occur over the coming weeks. To abide by these [Ministry of Education guidelines](#), our district has created a framework for assessment and grading during the pandemic. Parents can expect the following:

- Teachers will provide a manageable set of activities for your child to complete at home;
- Your child(ren) will receive ongoing feedback on how they are doing based on assigned activities;
- Your teacher(s) will determine a final grade/assessment for your child based on a combination of work completed before spring break and the learning that is happening at home;
- Your child(ren) will receive a year-end report card in June; and
- As a result of successfully completing their coursework, all students on track to move to the next grade will do so in the 2020-21 school year.

Summer School

Our school district continues to plan for summer school learning, but it will undoubtedly look different than it has in the past. Our teams are in the process of developing plans and course options, with summer school scheduled to run during the following weeks:

- Enhancement Summer School (Gr. 1 – 4): July 6 to July 23, 2020
- Enhancement Summer School (Gr. 5 – 8): July 6 – 23, 2020
- Academic Summer School (Gr. 9 -12): June 29 to July 24, 2020

More information will be communicated on our district website in May.

Graduation

For our grade 12 students, we understand there has been much uncertainty around graduation. It is now apparent that based on the rules of physical distancing that we will be unable to host convocation and prom events as we have in the past.

I have asked each of our secondary school principals to work with their graduation committees to develop a contingency plan for graduation, which includes consideration for virtual ceremonies. Parents can expect communication about this from your child's school in the coming days. As an aside, it is vitally important that students and parents do not independently organize any impromptu graduation events outside your family. As disappointing as this may be, the direction of the Provincial Medical Health Officer requires that we continue to respect the rules of physical distancing.

Moving Forward

We will continue to provide the latest updates, including continuing learning opportunities, information from the Ministries of Health and Education, and supports for families on our website: www.abbyschools.ca. We will also continue to include links to resources as we receive them.

We are mindful that our students and families may experience different challenges during this learning transition. Our District and school staff continue to work diligently to provide you with the necessary resources and learning support. We are actively examining how we can create the most optimal experience for our learners, and thank you for working with us through these difficult times.

Please stay healthy,



Dr. Kevin Godden
Superintendent of Schools