

April 3, 2020

Dear parents and legal guardians,

I apologize for sending this letter on a Friday, especially during spring break, but it is essential that I share the new information regarding the indefinite class suspension with you.

I would like to begin by giving thanks, to you the parents and guardians, for your support and collaboration since the beginning of this crisis. I would also like to thank our school employees and the divisional office employees for their continued efforts in ensuring our students' success.

The coronavirus has forced us to change our practices and our way of living and I am certain the impact is also felt at home. With new challenges ahead of us and little time to prepare, we will get through this crisis together. With that being said, we have created an emergency plan that will be shared with you early next week in order to establish a guideline of essential learning outcomes that our students from kindergarten to grade 8 should achieve from now until June. There will be a different scenario for our grade 9 to 12 students.

The Superintendents and Assistant-Superintendents work daily alongside the Minister of Education and its partners in education to ensure that the equitable delivery of the curriculum is respected. The DSFM currently sits on six Ministry committees in order to provide winning strategies for our students, our schools, our community and our parents.

Although we don't have all the answers to the questions you may have, we are trying to find solutions as we are a unique school division with different needs. Our wide disparity between regions and for some parents, access to technology, are two of the concerns we cannot ignore. Our Information Technology Department is working towards providing the necessary tools in order to reach students and to continue their education.

An important thing to remember, in order for a student to be at their fullest potential and to continue to excel, is that they must have an optimal environment. With the uncertainty this virus brings, we understand that the stress you, as a parent, may be experiencing, along with the isolation, is not easy. For this reason, we must monitor all of our students, especially those with particular needs.

What is to be expected?

- Schools are closed to the public. Employees and students must make arrangement with the school principal to obtain their belongings and school supplies to avoid groups larger than 10 people.
- Only the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer has the authorization to reopen schools.

- Daycares located in a school can operate with a maximum of 16 children, with priority given to front line essential workers.
- Teachers are expected to continue teaching and support students.
- No student will be held back a grade. However, assessments will continue.
- There will be no provincial exams, but the Minister of Education does expect a final report card.

We are here to support one another during this difficult time. Please know that your school principal is available to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. Also, we would like to inform you that we work closely with Pluri-Elles, an organization that offers free counselling services for our employees and our parents. Do not hesitate to call them.

To conclude, despite the isolation and chaos, I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding and I hope you have a great weekend.

Respectfully,



Alain Laberge  
Superintendent

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