



CAMPBELL RIVER

School District 72

March 24, 2020

Dear parents/guardians,

These are certainly unprecedented times and things continue to change quickly due to COVID-19. I wanted to connect and give you an update on where we are at and what you can expect following last week's announcement that all in-class instruction is suspended until further notice.

We are all saddened to have such an abrupt pause to our school year, but our district's management team, principals, teachers and educational support staff are hard at work this week planning for how we can provide students with some continuity of learning through this difficult time. We are also considering how we can support those vulnerable students who may face additional challenges and the families of essential front-line workers.

As we develop these plans, I have asked staff this week to focus primarily on connecting with students and families to provide reassurance, as well as identify relevant and meaningful activities and learning that can be done at home. We want to be very thoughtful not to burden families with unrealistic expectations. Our goal is to support you through these difficult times, not to add any further stress or anxiety.

Sometime this week you can anticipate hearing from your child's teacher(s) either by phone or email, depending on the grade. Teachers will be working with families and students to help them determine how best to support the learning for the students in their care.

We know that our grade 12 students and parents have additional worries and concerns with regards to graduation and how this might impact post-secondary applications. Our secondary schools will be in direct contact with grade 12 students and their parents, but I want to reassure you that we have been told by the Ministry of Education that there will be no negative impact on a student's ability to graduate. The Ministry is also working with the Ministry of Advanced Education to ensure no impact to post-secondary applications.

We have also received questions about when and how students might be able to pick up their personal belongings from school. We will provide limited and controlled building access to ensure we are following all necessary health protocols. Principals will contact you soon to provide more information on when and how you can collect personal belongings.

This is a difficult time for everyone as we face a degree of fear and uncertainty, but it can be particularly scary for children. Here are some resources that may be useful as you help your child(ren) cope with their concerns about COVID-19: BC Children's Hospital Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre [Talking to Children About COVID-19](#) and Children's Mental Health Ontario [Talking to Your Anxious Child About COVID-19](#)

We are committed to providing regular updates to our families and more information on continuity of learning will be provided as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we work through this challenge. Wishing you all continued health and safety.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeremy Morrow
Superintendent of Schools