

April 6, 2020

Dear Families,

Today marks the beginning of phase 2 of the Learning at Home strategy. Since the ordered school closures were first announced in March 2020, the NCDSB staff have been hard at work trying to ensure a positive transition to this new approach to teaching and learning. We acknowledge our teachers and principals who have developed emergency plans to shift from what we have always known in school to a distance learning environment. Despite our very best efforts, we know that there are going to be gaps in our plans and challenges to this way of learning. We continue to operate under the principles of flexibility and what is reasonable and realistic.

As we do every day, we are relying on the expertise of our educators to use the strategies that best meet the needs and interests of their students. We know that this is new to everyone and we need to ensure that we are working together to achieve the best possible outcomes. Our teachers will deliver learning opportunities in a variety of ways to students and will stay connected with you as best they can. It is important to remember however, that this new way of teaching and learning will not be the same as it was when we were last in school. Our programming will not follow a timetable of a normal school day for students. The Ministry of Education has offered the following suggested hours of work per student:

Kindergarten to Grade 3	5 hours of work per student per week FOCUS: Literacy and Mathematics
Grades 4-6	5 hours of work per student per week FOCUS: Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies
Grade 7-8	10 hours of work per student per week FOCUS: Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies
Grades 9-12	3 hours of work per course per week FOCUS: Achieving credits
<i>Hours refer to the approximate time students would spend on the work assigned by teachers.</i>	

All elementary students will receive a report card at the end of the school year. This report card may look a little different than what you have become used to, but it will be a way for teachers to assess your child's progress through the Ontario Curriculum. Teachers are expected to provide feedback to students on their progress.

Students at the secondary level will also receive a report card based on the work completed in each subject matter. Students will be expected to complete learning tasks, projects, and culminating activities that will be marked by teachers. A reminder that secondary students on track to graduate will need to actively engage in learning and complete assignments in order to graduate.

Finally, we are working as quickly and as safely as we can to ensure that all students have the technology they need to access distance learning. We anticipate that this protocol will be finalized this week and then we will proceed with the distribution of technology to students who require board-owned equipment to continue with their learning. Thank you for your patience.

Please continue to check our Board website regularly as updates will be posted along with valuable resources and information.

Thank you for staying committed to our mission of learning together, striving for excellence, and being in service to God and each other.

Stay home, stay safe, and continue to take good care of each other.

Sincerely,

Tricia Weltz
Director of Education