



March 30, 2020

Dear Families of the NCDSB,

Today marks the beginning of the second week of the *Learning at Home* strategy put in place by the Ministry of Education in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. All of us continue to have questions and concerns about what will happen next. These are extraordinary times, and we believe that the best way forward is working together.

The NCDSB community is actively working through the details of the next phase of the *Learning at Home* strategy. We do not yet know a new date for a possible return to school. Once this is known, we will inform you as quickly as possible. We are doing everything we can to share current information with you by using our telephone messenger system and posting updates to our Board website at www.ncdsb.on.ca.

As well, we know that there are real concerns for our families who might not have access to technology or reliable internet services. I ask that you not worry about this right now. Our planning team at the NCDSB is working through practical solutions and opportunities to address this for our students. This is the time to focus on our health and the health of our family, friends, and global neighbours.

We know that this has been a difficult time for all families. We assure you, that there is no expectation for you to take on the role of teacher, on top of the many responsibilities you already hold. School boards have been asked by the Ministry of Education to take this time of ordered closure to think through possibilities and opportunities for us to continue providing instruction to your child, just differently than what we typically have experienced in school. We are determining what we can reasonably do to support our students. We are gathering resources and are asking our teachers to connect with their students to gather important information for us to consider as we proceed with our plans for the next step in distance learning. As all of this is happening, we are working diligently to transition our staff to virtual platforms so that they will eventually be in a place to provide instruction and support to our students. We have added some new resources on our Board website as well. Please visit our website as soon as you can to see what we have posted to help you and your child during this time of ordered closure.

There is so much happening, but we are making progress day by day. We remain committed to learning together, striving for excellence, and being in service to God and each other. For now, focus on your family's health and well-being. Be sure to follow all the directions and expectations of our government and health officials.

Continue to take good care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,

Tricia Stefanic Weltz
Director of Education