



LORD ASQUITH SCHOOL

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March 17, 2020

Dear Parents,

I just wanted to send a quick note to thank you for all your patience and support the past few days. This is an incredibly unique and confusing situation for all of us, made worse by the fact that we have so many unknowns at this point. I promise that we will communicate with you when we know more about what the coming weeks will look like. Prairie Spirit School Division is seeking clarity on a number of questions arising from yesterday's announcement of the suspension of classes by the Government of Saskatchewan, and then plans will be made about how to best support student learning moving forward.

Personally, yesterday was one of the most difficult days I have had as an educator, and I know a lot of my staff feel the same. Many kids were struggling with the suddenness of it all, and with the uncertainty of what the coming months will look like for school, extra-curricular activities, graduation, etc. Although there is sometimes conflict, teachers and EA's see the kids they work with everyday as family, and many of our kids feel the same about their teachers and classmates. It was an unsettling feeling watching kids leave the school at the end of the day and not knowing when they will be back. This is a tough situation for all of us, but please be assured that all decisions are being made with the students' best health and academic interests at heart. The following link is a good resource for students, parents, and teachers in coping with the stress of the COVID-19 outbreak: https://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/resources/fact-sheet/outbreak_factsheet_1.pdf

Once we get more direction about how we should be supporting student learning during the suspension of classes, we will get to work in providing learning resources for families. In the meantime, we have asked teachers to encourage their students to engage in literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy tasks of their choosing. This will help the students continue learning until we can determine next steps.

We have a lot of high school students (and teachers) that are worried about what impact the suspension of classes will have on course credits and graduation progress. As of right now, we have not received a lot of information to answer these questions, other than the Government's announcement that students "will receive a final grade based on their current grade" and the strong message that **"we will not let the suspension of classes impede a student's ability to graduate or attain credit."** For now, we have strongly encouraged any students with missing assignments to get them to their teachers for grading ASAP so that we can ensure every student has a passing grade when we are asked to submit our marks to the Ministry. Teachers will be contacting the parents of academically at-risk students directly.

Thank you again for your patience during this time. We will share more information with you once it becomes available to us. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any further questions or concerns.

Brett Kirk
Principal
Lord Asquith School

