



## Small Schools Make a Difference

2020/05/22

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

I hope this message finds you well. Let me begin by extending my sincere thanks to you for all that you are doing during this difficult time. As a school board, we are extremely grateful for your continued support of your students through distance learning, as you navigate the many circumstances and challenges that have resulted from this pandemic. We thank you for all that you do every day.

The health, safety and well-being of your children continues to be the most important focus for us as we navigate learning from a distance. With the Minister of Education's announcement that schools will remain closed and that we will continue to learn in this manner until the school year concludes on Friday, June 26, 2020, we wanted to provide you with some information that might support you during this time, and moving into the upcoming school year.

**Distance Learning:** Our staff have gone to extraordinary efforts in a short period of time to transition to Distance Learning. This has and will continue to include connecting with your child(ren) through a variety of means, including the telephone and computers. Our staff are eager to hear from you as we increasingly refine our on-line teaching practices to best meet the needs of students given these circumstances. We encourage you to continue to engage in ongoing communication with school staff so that we can work together to address specific needs.

**Report Cards:** All students will be receiving a report card at the end of June. Report cards will continue to reflect the growth that students have demonstrated both before and during the school closure time. Please remember that no student's achievement will be negatively impacted by the COVID-19 closure and the change to Distance Learning.

**Exams:** There will be no exams for high school students. The five designated exam days (June 22 – 26, 2020) have been reallocated as instructional days. Families should note that there may be final projects for high school students, as communicated by their teachers.

**Food Security:** The SGDSB Food Security Program will continue until the end of June. Please contact your child's principal via email for additional information.

**Student Personal Belongings:** Beginning on Monday, June 1, 2020, family members will be permitted to retrieve their child's personal belongings from school, by appointment only. Please watch for further communication about this process from the school.

**Graduation Celebrations:** At this time, we have engaged in consultation with families of graduating students to solicit their feedback on ways to celebrate both elementary and high school graduations. Although we know that these important events will have to look differently, we want to ensure that they continue to be memorable for students and families. Please stay tuned for more information from your child's school.

**Summer Programs/Opportunities:** This summer there will be opportunities for summer learning. We are in the initial planning stages for programs that will be credit generating for high school students, summer literacy and numeracy programs, upgrading courses for high school students, and other targeted programs. We have also been made aware that the After-School Skills Development Program (designed for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder) can now include transition to school activities for the fall. We encourage families to watch for announcements of these programs/opportunities on social media.

**Planning for September:** The Ministry of Education, in conjunction with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and through a stakeholder consultation process (more information to come on this process), will be providing school boards with guidelines for the startup of the school year in September. We are beginning our own planning process as we anticipate some of these guidelines. We know that schools will have to look differently in the fall as we put various measures (such as physical distancing) into place to maintain a safe environment for all. Please be reassured that the safety of students and staff is paramount for everyone and is forming the basis of all plans. Information will be made available to families by the end of June so that you are aware of how September may look within our school environments, based upon the current safety measures. These plans will have to remain flexible to respond to the changing circumstances over July and August.

Transition to school activities are already occurring for students entering school, moving to grade 9 or who require additional support, as we know how important it is to help students to feel welcome. Our staff are available to support all students through the transition process, which will continue throughout the summer months.

With this news of the continuation of the school closure through June, we would like to remind families to reach out to your child(ren)'s school if you require support or have questions/concerns. We will continue to provide information and updates as they become available. Again, on behalf of the entire staff of Superior-Greenstone District School Board, please accept my sincere thanks for your continued support, partnership, and communication as we all navigate these new and unfamiliar times in our world. We are all here to help.

Yours in education,



Nicole Morden Cormier  
Director of Education

