



March 17, 2020

Memo: From the Superintendent

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Thank you for your patience as our staff work hard to prepare for our new reality. I am very proud of our teachers and staff as they realize that learning and teaching is going to look different and will continue to evolve. They are already discussing creative and innovative ways to meet the needs of a range of learners in a variety of settings. This is not an easy task by any means. Please know we are dedicated to meeting the needs of your children the best we can.

Student Belongings

Over the next couple of days, parents/guardians will be receiving communication from our school principals on a process for families to gather student belongings. This process must be organized and staggered to ensure we are not allowing too many individuals into the school at once. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we filter our students into our schools.

Student Learning

Yesterday, superintendents across the province teleconferenced with the Deputy Minister of Education. It was clear that the delivery of learning outcomes for students will continue. The province will provide clear guidelines for minimum levels of content, and school jurisdiction will navigate “how” we engage students in the learning. At this time, we do know that we will be delivering content in multiple formats (ex. paper copies, electronic, etc.) for students who have different learning preferences or access to technology. Over the next few days, we will provide more specific details.

For many of our grade 12 students, graduation requirements and college/university admissions are on their minds. Alberta Education is working with school divisions and post-secondary institutions on these items, as well as the future of diploma exams. Again, we will keep you informed.

Staying Connected

We know that the one of the strongest aspects of our school division is the relationships between our staff and your children. Our school principals will be working with our staff to develop strategies that allow our teachers, support staff and wellness mentors to continue to connect with students. We are concerned about their academics and also their social and emotional well being during this unprecedented time. We know maintaining these relationships will be good for our students but also for our staff, as we miss “our kids”. Please continue to keep your schools informed of your children’s well being.

Again, I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to you and to our Grasslands’ staff for your understanding. I recognize this is not easy for students and families. It is also not easy for our staff as they are also balancing a new reality for their own children who are also at home and a different way of teaching. Together, I am confident that we will do a great job in a very challenging time!

Sincerely,

Scott Brandt

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Superintendent