



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

March 28, 2020

Dear parents, guardians and students:

I am writing today to share our school district plans for the weeks of March 30 and April 6th. This plan is what we know now, and, as we have seen in the last few weeks, it can change. Please see below for some important timelines and information.

The Ministry of Education has provided the following direction to all School Districts:

1. Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees.
2. Provide services to support children of essential workers.
3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

Our Next steps:

March 30 – April 3

- School staffs will be working on developing learning opportunities for all students.
- School based student services teachers will be working with classroom teachers, district staff, and educational assistants on ways to support our students with special needs. Our Aboriginal Education department will also be working on supports for our Aboriginal students.
- A staff member will contact your child to connect and check on their well being.

March 31

- The Ministry has provided a Parent Learning Resources Web link which is also on our district website and can be found [here](#). This link contains free digital learning tools parents and students may access. This learning resource for families will be regularly updated.

Week of April 6

- Learning opportunities will be shared with students during the week of April 6. Teachers understand that this change to learning at home cannot replicate classroom instruction.
- Principals will be contacting families to arrange a schedule to come to the school to retrieve your child's belongings. The schedule will ensure a healthy and safe process. **Please do not come to the school until you hear from your child's principal.**

Available now:

- There is a COVID-19 section on our website that lists all of the accurate information from the Provincial Medical Health Officer and the Ministry of Education. We also have some suggestions [here](#) on effective ways to communicate with your children during these difficult times.
- On March 17, the Minister of Education suspended all K-12 in-class instruction indefinitely. His letter contains assurances regarding progression to the next grade and graduation. Please see the letter on our website [here](#).
- The latest letter to parents from the Minister of Education was received last night which can be found [here](#).

In Progress:

Providing Service to Support Essential Workers

District staff are working with various community daycare and childcare providers to determine availability. Once this is determined, in-school supports will be organized.

- If you are an essential service worker, and you are requesting to have your child/children considered for on-site supervision or care, please complete the survey form [here](#).

It is important that essential service workers exhaust all possibilities for supervision of their children first, before accessing the essential services school support. This will help SD5 in its efforts to safely apply health and safety protocols as defined by the Provincial Medical Health Officer.

Support for Vulnerable Students

District staff are working around supporting vulnerable children.

- For social emotional support, we are working with Canadian Mental Health, Child and Youth Mental Health and Interior Health.
- Food support efforts are being coordinated with the City of Cranbrook, City of Fernie, Salvation Army, food banks and food recovery programs where they exist. Classroom teachers will contact families next week to determine who needs these services and any newly-identified needs. Youth Care Workers and Aboriginal Education Support Workers will be in contact with families as well.
- Support for students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) – will be coordinated by Student Services Teachers.

Please remember to take care of yourselves – get plenty of sleep, eat well, drink lots of water, exercise and get outside while respecting [social distancing](#) and proper hygiene.

School District 5 is indeed a great place to learn and by supporting each other, practicing kind and thoughtful ways of thinking and acting, we will manage these difficult times.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Silke Yardley
Superintendent