



PRAIRIE ROSE SCHOOL DIVISION

45 Main Street S. Box 1510 Carman MB R0G 0J0

Ph: (204) 745 2003

Fax: (204) 745-3699

To: Parents, Guardians, Staff, and Community Members

From: Ron Sugden, Assistant Superintendent

Date: March 18, 2020

RE: COVID-19 – PRAIRIE ROSE SCHOOL DIVISION (PRSD) UPDATE: TEACHING AND LEARNING CONTINUITY PLAN

The rapidly evolving situation around the COVID-19 pandemic requires all of our systems to continue to work together to ensure a coordinated response for all people working and learning through our schools and programs across PRSD.

As you know, a decision has been made to suspend classroom teaching in Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools effective March 23, 2020 for three weeks, including the week of spring break. This will allow time for alternative arrangements to be made while the number of presumptive and confirmed cases remains low. Suspending in-class learning is a proactive response to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to prepare schools to the greatest extent possible.

During the week of March 16 to March 20, while students are in classes, schools will continue to review and implement social distancing practices to the extent feasible and possible. Please consider what both schools and students can reasonably do to help curb the spread of the illness. For additional resources on COVID-19 prevention and control, please visit:

www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus/public.html

TEACHING AND LEARNING CONTINUITY PLAN (COVID 2020)

Teachers will be responsible for planning and delivering instruction between March 23 and March 27, 2020, and April 6 and April 9, 2020 (9 days). Teachers will be communicating expectations with students and parents on a regular basis during the 9 days that classes have been suspended in schools. Means of communication (phone, email, various electronic platforms, hard copy, and other means) will be shared this week with parents and students in regards to a teaching and learning continuity plan; this will be the responsibility of each teacher in regard to their assigned course loads.

Parents need to be well informed about their child's learning, and work with the school to help plan and provide support. We understand that student learning at home may be a challenge for parents who are working, or face challenges with day care. We are asking parents to monitor their child's learning and schedule learning time when possible. Parents should work with their child's teacher to provide their child with a schedule for learning at home.

Social and Emotional Well-being of Students: Guidance Counsellors and School Social Workers will be available at each school site. Schools will be sharing contact information for these services as required. Please feel free to contact your school if you have concerns about your child or families well-being.

prsd@prsdmb.ca

www.prsdmb.ca

QUESTIONS REGARDING TEACHING AND LEARNING AT HOME

When will I receive work for my child to support their learning at home?

Teachers are working to ensure that learning resources and materials are available electronically and in print for our students. We need time to coordinate and assemble these materials. They will be accessible for students by Friday, March 20th.

What will teachers expect students to work on while classes are suspended?

Given that there will be 9 days of suspended classes (March 23-27; April 6-9), our focus will be on providing manageable and meaningful tasks that can support a routine, consistent effort by students to continue their learning. We know that it will be helpful for our students to maintain a schedule that includes some learning, some activity, some rest, and some play every day. We also know that the extent to which parents and caregivers may be available to assist with student learning will vary, and we will plan appropriately.

Does my child have to complete all the learning opportunities that are provided?

Do your best. We understand that this will be easier for some families than others. We also recognize that children and families may be experiencing additional anxiety and pressure at this time. If it is worthwhile and helpful, focus on the learning opportunities that your child is most interested in. If needed, make the social-emotional wellness of your family the priority. Your child will be fine academically if the next three weeks aren't just about school work.

How and when will teachers be available?

During the two weeks of suspended classes, teachers will be available during the work day to answer questions, clarify assignments, or assist with comprehension as needed. Students may seek support from teachers by email or by phoning the school. Teachers may choose to connect remotely with individual students or 'check-in' as appropriate. Some teachers may use online tools such as Google classroom or Zoom to connect with students.

What if I don't have internet or my child does not have a computer?

Teachers will make every effort to ensure that students who do not have access to internet will still be able to continue their learning with alternative means. This will include sending a paper package home with students by Friday, March 20 (mailing the package or arranging for pick-up if the student is absent on March 20).

Will students be assessed on school work completed during the 9 days of suspended classes?

No material is due during this mandatory suspension of classes, whether it be previously assigned work or new learning activities. None of the recommended work from these two weeks will be graded, but it is important for students to be academically engaged. The learning opportunities are intended to engage students, to make use of your time, and enhance your understanding and explore interests.

Will this count towards report card marks?

Not directly. Attempting as many of the learning opportunities as possible will only help your child when they return to school. Work completed during the suspension of classes can and will be shared with teachers so your child can get feedback. For now, this is a short two week period at home and because families have different needs and accessibility it will be hard to assess work and place a value on it. If the class suspension goes longer we will reassess this direction.

What if my child receives additional learning support or accommodations?

Please contact your school resource teacher to discuss what additional support might be available during the suspension of classes.

Will attendance count on my child's report card?

As per the direction of the department, attendance in PRSD will be recorded for safety reason March 16-20, and will not be recorded on your child's report card. Attendance will not be recorded during class suspension, March 23-27, and April 6-9.

What if my child receives guidance or counselling support at school?

Please contact your school guidance counsellor to discuss what guidance or counselling support might be available during the suspension of classes.

What might parents do to supplement the home-based learning?

We recognize that families and parents will be busy over the next few weeks. However, in the event that students would like some additional learning opportunities, it is recommended that parents/guardians set up a schedule for their children at home so they can spend 15-30 minutes per day on each subject area.

If you have any questions, please call me at 1-204-745-2003 or by email at rsugden@prsdmb.ca.