

# Office of the Superintendent

*Shelley Green - Superintendent*

March 18, 2020

Dear GVSD Parents and Guardians:

I would like to start by extending our thoughts to all families as we all try to navigate through these unprecedented times. As this virus quickly evolves, we are hearing stories from near and far on how this pandemic is changing the way we connect and live our lives. This is new territory for all of us and we appreciate your support as we continuously assess the implications for our learning community.

Following the provincial government announcement that **all schools in British Columbia will suspend in-class instruction until further notice**, our District is developing plans for the continuation of services and programming. Our teams are working to develop processes around providing continuity of instruction.

Our District is currently exploring alternative methods to administer the curriculum. We understand that many families will have questions, including the following:

- *How will the District ensure the continuation of instruction?*
- *If instruction moves online, what happens if we do not have access or devices at home?*
- *How do I balance work and my child being at home?*
- *When will students will be returning to school?*

Our District is working to find the answers to these questions at this time. We are continuing to work with the Ministry of Education on how we support our staff and students while shifting the way we deliver education. There are on-going conversations and planning that continues to take place.

As we continue to develop plans, we will be providing families with more details. We understand the importance of communication and will be providing families updates via email and our District website, [www.sd61.bc.ca](http://www.sd61.bc.ca) with the latest developments.

In the meantime, we ask that families please take all precautions and stay healthy. While we are physically distancing ourselves, we must continue to support each other. Whether it is a phone call, email or text message, please check in on each other.

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

If you think you have symptoms the Ministry of Health has developed an online self-assessment tool at <https://covid19.thrive.health/>. If you do have symptoms, you can call 8-1-1 to pre-arrange health testing. If you have any questions about COVID-19, contact the new medical information line: 1-888-COVID19.

Again, we thank you for your support and patience as we enter uncharted territories.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shelley Green', with a light blue shadow effect.

Shelley Green  
Superintendent of Schools

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One *Learning* Community

