

Office of the Superintendent

Shelley Green - Superintendent

Friday, April 3, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: Superintendent Update – First Week Back

It has been a very busy first week back from spring break. Our team is working incredibly hard to have alternative learning solutions in place as soon as possible. With no definitive timeline for when students will be returning to class, it is important that our District develop a long-term strategy and implement a sustainable model that supports all of our students and staff for many weeks to come.

As we move forward, our District is working to ensure that any alternative learning methods are safe, accessible and achievable. We are currently examining online platforms and specific tools to ensure that those tools are secure for all users and follow best practice. We are also looking at other ways we can put learning materials into the hands of students, such as paper-based learning modules, to continue to support all of our learners, including those with specific or complex needs.

District staff is developing a process for schools to distribute essential devices or equipment for students to work on priority individual education plans. Decisions on what devices and equipment are essential to have at home will be determined by case managers in consultation with families and specialists.

Aside from developing learning plans, our District is also putting together plans for how we can offer support to our broader community. Our 'One Learning Community' really extends in these challenging times, and we have a responsibility to provide support for our essential service workers.

That being said, we are working with the Ministries of Health, Education, and Children and Family Development to identify our frontline workers' need for childcare and provide them with support, prioritizing our medical professionals.

In addition, we are connecting with families who utilize our school-based food service programs. Starting next week, we will continue to provide meals for our most in need families. Schools have been connecting with those families directly to notify them of their pick-up zone, schedule and the safety protocols.

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.

Schools will also be connecting with families next week to provide an update on when students can gather their personal belongings and critical learning supplies.

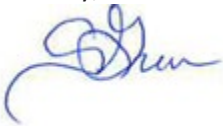
We understand these are challenging times and want you to know you are not alone. We are in this together. For tips, mental health resources, and learning activities, please visit our website:

<https://learn.sd61.bc.ca/>

We have realized that in challenging times, it is critical for all us to work together and support one another. We are proud to share a partnership message that we shared with all of our staff today. To review our joint statement with educational partners: www.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/news/title/gvzd-joint-statement-with-educational-partners/

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding. We always want to be supporting our families and our community, and believe we do our best work when we have support from you.

Sincerely,



Shelley Green
Superintendent of Schools

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One *Learning* Community

