



April 3, 2020

RE: A message from the Board Chair and Superintendent

Dear students, families and district staff:

On behalf of the Board of Education and the senior leadership team, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our students, their families and district staff, as we get accustomed to our new reality. We hope that you are doing well and keeping safe while we navigate through this global pandemic.

For the students and families of the district, the first week following March break is coming to a close and we truly appreciate your patience and understanding while we took the time to develop a plan that addresses every students' need. For the past couple days, your child's teacher would have reached out and will continually do so in the coming weeks. Do not hesitate to share with them the specific needs of your family, whether it be for learning or help with some breakfast food or snacks. Today, we are putting the final plans in place to deliver supports for the children of essential service workers and provisions of food for families in need. We are all in this together. We are here to help.

To our valued staff, we understand that our current crisis in of itself is overwhelming. Add to this the challenge of creating safe worksites for support staff to developing a learning plan outside of our typical classroom. This is our new norm, for now, and we know you are up to the challenge.

To our support staff, thank you for keeping our schools clean, ensuring staff receive their pay and making sure the district and schools run smoothly. To our educators, we know that you have been left with the important and challenging task of providing education opportunities for the, approximately, 15,000 in the district. We hope you took the time this week to develop a plan with your school team. Remember, you too are not alone and we are here to help.

As our work from home routines evolve, not only for the students but for their families, we want to assure you that we will continually strive to maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and staff. We will also support our vulnerable students who may need special assistance and will provide continuity of learning for all students.

If you have any questions, please pass them along to the teacher during your next communication, the school principal or by visiting the district COVID-19 [webpage](#).

Sincerely,

Charlene McKay
Board Chair

Scott Saywell
Superintendent/CEO