



Letter from the Superintendent's Office  
March 27, 2020

NLPS families:

The end of March break is fast approaching and many families are now wondering what the coming weeks will bring. We are in unprecedented times and while the future is uncertain, my primary consideration is for you and your family's well-being, the well-being of our staff as well as the community at large.

The Ministry of Education's in-class instruction suspension now leaves us with the important and challenging work of providing educational opportunities via distance or distributed learning to the, approximately, 15,000 students that attend Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools (NLPS).

The Minister of Education has placed four expectations on school districts:

- Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees.
- Provide the services needed to support children of essential service workers. (Further information can be found on the district's COVID-19 [webpage](#))
- Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
- Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

Once March Break has ended, we will be proceeding slowly. During the week of March 30, NLPS principals will be reconnecting remotely with their staff, planning and building capacity to provide learning opportunities for students. You will hear from your child's teacher during this week to share more detail concerning their plan for the continuity of learning. Staff will also be preparing a plan to reconnect vulnerable students with food programs.

Beginning Monday, March 30, and for the foreseeable future, we ask that you keep your children home and out of schools until they are invited to return. Please do not return to school to pick up resources or personal belongings unless approved by your child's teacher or principal.

You may have questions about learning outside the structure of the classroom. Many of your questions can be answered by referring to the [FAQ](#) document released by the Ministry of Education earlier this week.

On behalf of the Board of Education and senior leadership team, thank you, merci and hay ch q'a! Take care of yourselves, each other and your loved ones. Together, we will triumph.

Sincerely,

Scott Saywell  
Superintendent/CEO