

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we complete Week 2 of teacher-led distance learning, I am hoping that your family is beginning to settle into the learn at home routine, and that your children are becoming more comfortable with distance learning.

I am writing to provide you with some additional information and also to seek your feedback so that we can better assist you to support your child's learning during this period of school closure.

### School Closure Period

You may be aware that earlier this week Premier Ford stated that the school closures would be extended beyond May 4<sup>th</sup>. As you know, on March 31st, the Ministry of Education announced the extension to the school closure period as a safety precaution to help minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our community. At that time, the Ministry indicated that the closure may be further extended as necessary to protect the health and well-being of students, families and staff.

**At this point, we have not received any further information or formal direction from the Ministry of Education about the extension of the school closure period beyond May 4th.** As soon as we do, we will share this information with you.

### Our HCDSB Distance Learning Plan

Learning from home is new for everyone, and we know that parents, students and staff have a number of questions around the expectations of distance learning. While we are still awaiting some of the details and further direction in certain areas from the Ministry of Education, we wanted to share in one document the information we know at this time.

We have prepared a guide for families that provides information around the curriculum delivery, assessment and evaluation as it pertains to teacher-led distance learning during this period of school closure.

[View the HCDSB Distance Learning Plan – A Guide for Parents and Guardians.](#)

I encourage you to review this document. We hope it helps answer some of the questions you have. We will continue to update this plan as we receive further direction and information from the Ministry of Education.

### Parent Feedback Form

We have received a number of requests from families seeking support on the use of the online learning platforms. To that end, I invite you to share any specific questions you may have around the learning platform your child is using – whether it be D2L, Google Classroom, or Microsoft Office 365.

**You may submit your questions through this [ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM](#).**

We will use the feedback gathered to develop parent tutorials and/or tip sheets to help you navigate these platforms so you can support your child in their distance learning.

As always, please continue to reach out to your child's teacher or school principal during regular school hours if you have any concerns around their learning.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support during this period. We know that distance learning does not provide the same type of instruction that occurs in the daily face-to-face setting of our classrooms, and we understand that parents and students may be concerned about learning gaps that may form during this period of distance learning.

When schools re-open, we will be very intentional about assessing student learning needs and providing appropriate intervention where needed. That said, it is very important for students to remain engaged in their learning during this period of distance education, as it will help them stay on top of the curriculum and be better prepared when we return to the regular classroom setting or as they begin post-secondary education.

Our shared goal is for all students to successfully complete this school year. Working together, we will continue to do the best we can, in light of the circumstances, to create teaching and learning conditions to help us reach this goal.

I continue to hold all of our students, families and staff in my thoughts and prayers and hope that you are keeping well and staying healthy.

Pat Daly  
Director of Education