

Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board



Lindsay Liske
Chairperson

Rose Burton Spohn
Director of Education

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Yesterday afternoon, the Minister of Education, on the advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, legally ordered that all of Ontario's publicly-funded elementary and secondary schools will be closed for two weeks following March Break. This closure is in response to the emergence of COVID-19 in Ontario.

This means that, in the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board, **between Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, April 5, 2020 inclusive:**

- All schools and board facilities will be closed to students, families, volunteers, visitors, and community members / agencies.
- All cooperative education and OYAP work placements will be cancelled.
- All community use of schools permits and internal school bookings will be cancelled. This includes all community programs operating out of the Mount St. Joseph Centre (e.g., Breaking Away).
- All student transportation to and from our schools will be cancelled.
- All practices, tournaments, and competitions for student athletics and arts programs will be cancelled. This includes, but is not limited to, OFSAA.
- All extracurricular activities will be cancelled.
- All field trips scheduled to occur during this time will be cancelled.
- All daycare centres located in our schools will be closed.
- All before and after school programs located in our schools and board buildings, including the After School Autism Program, will be cancelled.

The board's understanding is that the mandated two-week school closure is intended to contain the spread of COVID-19. This two-week time period allows all students, employees, volunteers, visitors, and families – particularly those travelling over the March Break – to reduce their face-to-face contact time with others who may unknowingly be infected with the virus; monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19; and self-isolate, self-quarantine, and/or seek medical attention, where necessary. The two-week closure is an extraordinary measure that allows us all to do our part to protect students, families, colleagues, and community members, some of whom are vulnerable and medically fragile. I urge you to recognize and honour the intention of this fourteen-day incubation period so everyone is prepared to return to school healthy on **Monday, April 6, 2020.**

Catholic Education Centre

90 Ontario Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 6G7
Phone: 705-945-5400
Toll Free: 1-800-267-0754
Website: www.hscdsb.on.ca

During the next three weeks and beyond, our board remains committed to engaging in the deep cleaning of its schools and facilities and to providing you with updates. We acknowledge that many questions still need to be answered, including those related to secondary dual credit and e-learning programs. Additional information about these and other issues will be provided as it becomes available through our social media accounts and website at www.hscdsb.on.ca.

In addition, given how rapidly things are unfolding, we encourage you to continue to monitor the following websites for the most up-to-date information related to travel and COVID-19:

- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx>
- <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notice>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/guidance-schools-childcare-programs.html>

Please continue to join me in praying that all those in our HSCDSB family will be held in God's good and gentle hands throughout this time of anxiety and uncertainty.

God bless,



Rose Burton Spohn
Director of Education