



Lindsay Liske
Chairperson

Rose Burton Spohn
Director of Education

April 2, 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians:

Earlier this week, in his letter to parents, Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, announced that Ontario students would continue to learn from home between Monday, April 6 and Friday, May 1, 2020. This letter is intended to provide you with more details about how the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board will be supporting you and your children during this period.

Although there are many details still to be resolved, particularly related to individual situations, we wish to assure you that, in accordance with the Minister's direction:

- **Teacher-Led Learning** – Teacher-led learning will begin on Monday, April 6. The number of hours that students will be asked to remain engaged in learning activities will vary, from a minimum of five hours per week for our youngest learners to twelve hours per week for our secondary students. You can expect students to have regular contact with their educators through one or more online platforms (e.g., Google Classroom, Brightspace, Class Dojo). In order to ensure that students can access curriculum content easily and reliably, use of live / streamed video will be kept to a minimum.
- **Technological Devices** – Parents / guardians who indicated via our online survey that their students require a technological device (e.g., Chromebook) to learn at home will soon begin receiving deliveries of these devices to their homes. We anticipate needing to make several rounds of deliveries between the afternoon of Friday, April 3 and Thursday, April 9. Our first deliveries will be made via our school bus drivers to parents whose students use specialized equipment and parents of students who completed the online survey by Tuesday, March 31. Our aim is to ensure that families receive the technology they require in a timely manner in order to make learning from home a reality.
- **Telephone Contact with Families** – Although we have attempted to reach all parents, either collectively through our School Messenger system and/or individually through calls from schools, we have been unable to make contact with some households. If you or anyone you know indicates they have not yet received at least one call from us since March Break, please encourage them to contact their local school. Additionally, as was mentioned in a School Messenger message, we urge you to consider accepting calls that display Caller ID Blocked or Unknown Number, since these calls could be our board and/or your local school trying to contact you with crucial information related to your student's education.

In closing, we thank you for your patience, cooperation, and understanding during this highly turbulent time. We acknowledge the existing and emerging pressures that many families are facing: working from home in shared spaces, working with limited child care options, and/or not working because of workplace closures. We encourage you to make your local school aware of any additional supports you might require in order to make learning at home possible. Equally, we ask that you encourage the students in your care to complete their studies faithfully, to continue to do all you can to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to continue to check our website regularly at www.hscdsb.on.ca for updates.

God bless,

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