

Parent Update

December 17, 2020



Hello everyone,

I can't imagine how difficult this pandemic has been for you as a parent. In spite of all that you have had to deal with, I want you to know that we are all so grateful for the patience and support you have shown our staff as we have made our way through one of the greatest challenges in our history as a school division.

On November 30th, we moved over 5,000 grade 7-12 students to online learning until at least January 11th. I know our staff have worked extremely hard prior to and during this time to make the transition as smooth as possible and, from what we have heard from parents so far, this has all been going very well.

For the week of January 4-8th just a reminder that over 5,000 K-6 students will also be moving to an online platform for the first time in the 2020-21 school year. Our K-6 staff have also worked extremely hard to be prepared for this transition, and I am sure they would really appreciate any support and guidance you might be able to provide your child from home during that week.

Some important ways you can help online learning for your K-6 child at home are by:

- a) Helping your child set up a space to work that is comfortable and free of interruptions
- b) Helping ensure that your child knows what is expected of them from their teacher
- c) Helping ensure your child is well rested and ready to learn
- d) Facilitating a conversation with your child about Google Classroom and how to access it
- e) Connecting with your child's teacher as soon as you can if you have any questions.

Please know that for all of our K-12 students, teachers will be moving curriculum and meaningful learning forward during the week of January 4-8th. It will still be an important time for students to remain connected to their classes.

To the best of our knowledge, on January 11th everyone will be returning to their schools for face to face instruction. That said, if an extension is announced, we will inform you as soon as we have the details from Alberta Education. I can assure you that our staff are fully prepared to carry on regardless of the situation.

It is important for you to know that, if your child becomes emotionally distressed or is experiencing mental health concerns at any time, that you connect them with:

- [Kids Help Phone](#) 1-800-668-6868 TEXT: CONNECT (686868)
- The Mental Health Help Line 1-877-303-2642 is available 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

This has been an extraordinary year in so many ways, and we have continually seen people in our Chinook's Edge school communities rising to the challenge. We are very grateful for your unwavering support for our staff and our schools.

I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kurt Sacher,
Superintendent of Schools