



June 17, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are coming to the end of a school year filled with unexpected challenges and adjustments for our families, students and staff. Both students and staff rose to the challenge of adjusting to distance learning in a short amount of time. Despite the exceptional circumstances, students have displayed incredible resilience and commitment to their education. As educators, we have learned new ways of teaching and connecting with our students to provide equitable and inclusive delivery of services.

Although the education community does not know what the new school year in September will look like, we will continue to prioritize the health and safety of staff and students. It is expected that by the end of June, the Minister of Education will communicate plans for the reopening of schools in September. The NNDSB will review this information when it is provided and share further details with parents.

Report Cards

Student report cards will be mailed to families on June 25, 2020, which is the established student reporting date for the NNDSB. This year's elementary report cards will contain additional information to assist parents in understanding final report cards for their children.

Graduations

In light of provincial legislation, which prohibits holding organized public events and gatherings to control the spread of COVID-19, it is not possible to hold any type of traditional graduations or celebrations at this time. As such, all NNDSB graduation ceremonies will happen virtually where possible. With the lifting of many restrictions by the province this past week and changes to parts of the emergency order, schools are also exploring additional ways for students to commemorate their graduation while ensuring strict adherence to established health and safety protocols.

Our Principals are working diligently with their staff and school communities to determine the best way to commemorate this special event. In the coming days, if they have not already, schools will be providing further information to parents and students.

Access to Student Lockers and Belongings

We know that there are personal items that remain at school that need to be returned to students and families. Working in consultation with local health providers, the NNDSB has developed a procedure for the safe return of personal belongings. If they have not already done so, principals or designates will notify parents/guardians and students (18 years of age) through email and/or phone call that locker contents and personal items will be available for curbside pick-up at the school. The pick-up date and time will be scheduled with parents/guardians and students.

Summer Learning

Once again, the Near North District School Board has received funding to provide summer learning experiences for elementary students. This year's program will be offered as a technology-enabled distance learning program designed to facilitate small group learning experiences that promote resilience, well-being, and social interaction, while growing literacy and numeracy skills through fun and engaging activities.

For secondary school students, summer learning opportunities will be available to both NNDSB and non-NNDSB students. Students have the opportunity to enroll in a variety of course offerings in both a reach-ahead and course upgrade capacity. This year summer school courses will be available online, and course offerings will be contingent on sufficient enrollment.

Please visit our summer school website for additional information on secondary student summer learning opportunities. <https://www.nearnorthschools.ca/students/summer-school/>

Student Transition Supports

There will be social work support available throughout the summer for students and families who are seeking resources or support during this time. Additional members of the mental health team may be found supporting our summer learning camps in July. Some special education and mental health staff will be available to work with school staff engaged in transition to school activities later in August. These plans are currently in process. Further information and details will be provided in the coming days and weeks.

Please continue to reach out to your school principal for updated information. You can also visit www.nearnorthschools.ca.

Stay safe and take care of each other.

Craig Myles
Director of Education