



April 3, 2020

Dear Near North Families,

Premier Ford officially announced that all publicly funded schools in Ontario, including those in the Near North District School Board (NNDSB), will remain closed to students until May 4, 2020, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. To support the learning needs of all students, we are planning to reinstate teacher-led learning on April 6, 2020. We appreciate that we may experience some needed adjustments initially, but we hope to be able to reach and support every learner in the days ahead.

In anticipation of April 6, 2020, the NNDSB has been working on the following:

- We have been working with staff to support both technology and non-technology approaches to learning at home.
- We have created an internal professional learning portal - to support teachers in developing skills using digital tools to support your children as they learn at home.
- During these first weeks, teachers have engaged in professional learning in preparation for a continuation of learning.
- We have created a list of online resources to support learning at home and made them accessible through the new [Passport for Learning website](#). This site provides access to online learning that will be familiar to you and your child, including Edsby, LMS, Bright space, and more.
- We are exploring new opportunities to support learning at home.

Our goal, as always, is to provide equitable access to learning and support for our students. We recognize that access to broadband internet connectivity remains a challenge in many homes and communities throughout the district and that not all families have access to technology, including tablets and computers. We will be reaching out to NNDSB families in the next few days by email or phone to determine your family's technology needs and challenges. We appreciate your cooperation in providing this information to us.

The NNDSB will be implementing a variety of online resources and learning experiences for K-12 students. To ensure equity for those without access to online learning, we are working to ensure that alternate learning strategies will be available.

To that extent, we continue to work on the development of off-line learning solutions. Our priority remains the health and safety of our community and ensuring that we are compliant with Ministry directives in reducing the spread of COVID-19. We ask for your continued patience and support as we move forward in developing approaches that do not increase the potential spread of COVID-19.

As always, continue to check our website and social media channels (Facebook and Twitter) for updates as they become available. We will also communicate with you periodically through the SchoolMessenger platform.

Be safe.

Craig Myles
Director of Education