

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents - Updated March 25th, 2020

Q: Will schools and sites remain closed for the rest of the school year?

A: All schools are closed to the public, but learning continues. Any changes to this direction would come from the Minister of Education, who would consult with public health agencies prior to changing this status.

Q: Are Administrative and Operational sites open?

A: At this time, our Administrative and Operational sites (School Board Office, Facilities) are closed to the public. Appointments can be made by making an appointment online or contact your school Principal. All staff can be contacted via email. You will find all contact information on our webpage.

Q: Are schools and sites being cleaned during the closure period?

A: All School District 8 (Kootenay Lake) sites are receiving enhanced cleaning during this COVID-19 outbreak, which focuses on increased cleaning of high touch surfaces, doorknobs, desktops, washrooms, food prep areas, etc.

Q: What can I do to prevent the spread of infection?

A: As recommended by Provincial Health Officials: stay home and away from others, if sick or in isolation; wash hands often; cover coughs and sneezes with your elbows; avoid touching face with unwashed hands; avoid travel outside Canada; self-isolate for 14 days if returning from travel outside Canada or were exposed to COVID-19; and contact your primary health provider or Health Link 811 if you have questions about your health.

Q: Will students be provided with online learning opportunities during the closure?

A: The Ministry of Education has indicated that all school districts create an educational continuity of learning plan. SD8 will communicate this plan with staff, students, and parents.

Q: Am I still able to send my child to the school to pick up school work?

A: Schools are closed to the public. Please make an appointment online or contact your school Principal if you need to pick up your child's belongings. Expect communication from your child's teacher with more information about assignments.

Q: How will I know if the teacher has received my child's work?

A: Expect regular email correspondence from your child's principal and teachers:

- Ways to support learning at home
- Sharing electronic assignments with children

Q: Will Grade 12 students be at risk of not graduating?

A: All students who are currently on track to graduate during the 2019-20 school year will do so.

Q: Will I have to redo my current grade?

A: Every student will receive a final mark based on their current academic standing. Students in a positive academic standing will advance to the next grade.

Q: What is happening with the Graduation Numeracy and Literacy Assessments this year?

A: For grades 10 and 11 students, Graduation Assessments are postponed for the 2019-20 school year. The only graduation assessment required for current Grade 12 students is the Grade 10 numeracy assessment. The Ministry of Education will ensure Grade 12 students who have not yet completed this assessment and who are otherwise on track to graduate are able to meet this graduation requirement.

FAQs: Covid-19 for Parents (Updated Mar 25/20)

Q: Will this closure impact progress reports and/or report cards?

A: At this time, we anticipate ongoing student progress will be conveyed to all students and parents in the same manner as was previously established.

Q: My current mark is low and I was looking to improve it. Will this closure impact my marks?

A: Please discuss this with your teacher and school administration.

Q: What if I do not have access to technology?

A: Contact your child's school Principal.

Q: Will this impact college and university applications?

A: Please contact the college or university directly.

Q: Will the school year be extended into the summer months?

A: We have not received this direction from the Ministry of Education. The decision to extend the school year would be made by the Minister.

Q: How will I document my child's learning?

Teachers will communicate with families to let them know how they would like your child's learning documented.

Q: My child has an I.E.P. How will my child's unique needs be met?

A: Please contact your child's Principal.

*Note: Supporting Vulnerable Families

We also know there are vulnerable students who have unique needs; important services like school meal programs, and child care services operating on school grounds that need to be addressed. We expect schools to consider these issues in their planning while we work together through these extraordinary times. Please contact your child's school Principal if you require assistance with support for your child.