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Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Director of Education
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Sherri-Lynne.Pharand@kpdsb.ca

April 1, 2020

Dear KPDSB Families,

Yesterday afternoon, March 31, 2020, the Ontario government announced that schools and child care centres will remain closed to students until Monday, May 4, 2020, to protect the health and safety of students and staff. The decision to extend the closures was made on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

To ensure continuity of learning for students, the government is launching the second phase of Learn at Home. Developed with education partners, the second phase of Learn from Home establishes clarity for parents, enhances education supports, and creates opportunities for teachers and educators to connect with students.

On April 6, 2020, KPDSB educators will begin the launch of Distance Learning that will be available for all students, Kindergarten to Grade 12. Outreach began last week to all students and families by their teachers, to determine which way we will best connect with your family. We understand that not all of our students will have access to online learning, so we will work with families to make sure that we have a method of communicating both instruction and feedback/assessment during the closures.

Elementary (Kindergarten to Grade 8)

For students in Grades K - 3, the focus will be on literacy and numeracy instruction at this time. For students in Grades 4 – 8, the focus will be on literacy, numeracy, Science and Social Studies instruction. Students in Grades K - 6 will be provided with approximately five hours of work per week, and teachers will work with their students and share information with parents/guardians on the delivery of these materials. Students in Grades 7 and 8 will be provided with approximately ten hours of work per student per week, and teachers will work with their students and share information with parents/guardians on the delivery of these materials.

Secondary (Grades 9-12)

For secondary students (Grades 9 - 12), students will continue with their Semester Two timetabled courses, making sure that senior students who are on track to graduate are not held back by any graduation requirements that can not be fulfilled at this time (i.e. community hours). Students in Grades 9 - 12 will be assigned an average of 3 hours of work per course per week, and teachers will work with their students and share information with parents/guardians on the delivery of these materials.

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The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board puts students first by creating a culture of learning.

Please understand that as we get started, we do not wish to overwhelm students or their families, so we will approach this with a “gentle entry” for the first week or more, if required.

There will be many questions and/or concerns that will arise as we begin working in an unprecedented format. Families should bring any questions and/or concerns to the attention of your school principal, who can be contacted by email (firstname.lastname@kpdsb.ca) or by calling the school phone number. Together, we can help our students return to a routine as well as reconnect with the staff at our schools. We will learn together through this process and we appreciate your patience and your collaboration while doing so.

We will continue to provide weekly updates to our families to keep you informed every step of the way. Our staff are here to support our students, staff and families during this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Pharand".

Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Director of Education, Keewatin-Patricia District School Board