

Kenora - Head Office

240 Veterans Drive, 4th Floor
Kenora, Ontario P9N 3Y5
Phone: (807) 468-5571
Fax: (807) 468-3857
Toll Free: 1-877-275-7771

Dryden Office

79 Casimir Ave
Dryden, Ontario P8N 2Z6
Phone: (807) 223-5311
Fax: (807) 223-8389
Toll Free: 1-877-287-5430



Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Director of Education
(807) 223-5311 Ext. 263
Sherri-Lynne.Pharand@kpdsb.ca

June 17, 2020

Dear KPDSB Families,

Now in our 11th week of distance learning, we wanted to thank our students and families for their support during this time and acknowledge your efforts as we all adjusted to a new way of teaching and learning. While we know distance learning has been challenging for many families, we are proud of the resiliency and perseverance our students have demonstrated.

With just under two weeks left in the 2019-2020 school year, we wanted to share some information around report cards and expectations for the final weeks of the year, as well as provide you with some information around our planning for the 2020-2021 school year. **Please note that with the cancellation of secondary exams, the last day of school for secondary students is Friday, June 26, 2020** (some programs may end earlier; your child's teacher will have communicated those dates directly to their students).

We would also like to take this opportunity to say **CONGRATULATIONS** to the graduating class of 2020! The 2019-2020 school year brought with it unprecedented challenges but you have persevered and will make history as the graduating class who overcame a global pandemic to complete your Ontario Secondary School Diploma. We are incredibly proud of your achievements and hope you are equally proud of yourselves.

2019-2020 Report Cards

All students will receive a report card for the 2019-2020 school year. For semester two, marks are based on learning that took place from the beginning of the semester to March 13, 2020. Distance learning is being taken into consideration for report cards, with students having an opportunity to increase their overall mark; however, no student's mark will go down from where it was on March 13, 2020. Report card comments will focus on what students have learned, describe significant strengths and identify next steps for learning and improvement.

Secondary report cards will be sent to families by mail and should arrive no later than July 4, 2020. The Ministry of Education has indicated official Ontario Secondary School Diplomas will be issued in the fall, however, some schools may provide students with a diploma issued by our Board in the interim.

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Student Personal Items in Schools

If your child still has personal items in one of our schools, please contact the school to make arrangements to pick up their items. You can leave a message at any of our schools and a member of our team will return your call. You will find contact information for our schools at [this link](#), or can send us an email by [clicking here](#).

Student Chromebooks

Some students will require their Chromebooks over the summer for summer learning while others will be required to return the devices to the school so that updates and repair work can be completed before the fall. Graduating Grade 12 students and students who will not return to our schools in the fall will be required to return their Chromebooks to their school by the end of June. Your child's school will ensure families know what is required around the return of Chromebooks.

2020-2021 School Year Planning

Planning for the 2020-2021 school year is currently underway. We know there are many questions around what school will look like come September and while we do not have all the answers at this time, we are looking at every possible scenario and format for learning, from a full return to our buildings, to a continuation of distance learning, or a combination of both. To guide us in this planning, we have created guiding principles and have committed that every decision and plan we put in place will be in line with those principles (found below).

Return to Learn Guiding Principles:

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board is engaged in planning for all possibilities of returning to learn in September. Our goal is to support a physically safe and mentally healthy return to learning for all students and staff.

We will use a trauma informed approach and ensure that we consider the following:

- *mental health and well-being of students and staff*
- *physical safety*
- *educational equity*
- *planning that is responsive to student needs*
- *personalized learning*
- *transparency*
- *regular communication to families*
- *high expectations for all*
- *continued use of technology to support learning needs*
- *continued digital literacy support*

All Ministry and health guidelines related to COVID-19 will be followed.

It is important to us that our families know we will do everything possible to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff should schools reopen in the fall. Families should be

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aware that a return to our buildings would likely look different from past school years; however, we can assure you our staff will continue to provide your child with the best possible educational experiences.

As a part of our planning, schools will be sharing a survey with families before the end of June to ask if, at this time, you plan to send your children to school in the fall should it be announced that our buildings will be open. The survey will also ask if families plan to utilize school bus transportation. Please be aware that this is just an initial step in our planning and that families will have an opportunity to change their response should they wish to do so as we get closer to the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

We know that returning to our buildings may bring different levels of apprehension for students and their families and that is to be expected. We will work through it together and will ensure families know what they can expect before the first day of school. As soon as more information is released by the government with regards to schools and the 2020-2021 school year, we will share it with our families.

As always, we are here to support you and your family. Please remember that our website has a [COVID-19 section](#) with supports for students and families during the pandemic, including Mental Health resources. You can also follow us on social media (search KPDSB on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram) for information and updates.

Sincerely,



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