

Thursday, March 19, 2020

Director of Education Message

Thank you for your support and understanding as we navigate this unprecedented situation with COVID-19 and the indefinite suspension of classes effective Friday, March 20. I have no doubt that this has been an emotional and uncertain week for you and your family. The abrupt suspension of classes has been difficult for both students and staff.

Thank you to all Prairie Spirit families for your support and understanding. Please take good care of yourselves and one another as we all work through this together.

The following information from the Ministry will provide an update on the education sector. We will continue to provide additional information and clarification as it is available.

Ministry of Education - Response Planning Team message as of March 19:

The Ministry of Education's **Response Planning Team**, which is leading the work in education during the indefinite suspension of classes, has prepared the following messages:

- In the upcoming week, as recommended by the Chief Medical Health Officer, it is most important for staff to pause, be able to enact social distancing and focus on the care and well-being of themselves and their families. Further direction will be coming from school divisions in terms of plans for next steps in the context of the COVID-19 response.
- We expect that teachers will have opportunities to continue learning activities after March 27. There will still be opportunities for students to progress on the mark they have at this time. We are not closing off the school year at this time.
- During the week of March 20 to 27 inclusive, school divisions will continue to carry out their continuity plans, being mindful of the health directives in place. This includes payroll, infrastructure care, etc.
- The Premier and the Minister of Education have indicated that students will progress and that those students who are eligible to graduate will do so.
- The parameters and a framework for education delivery and grading is yet to be established, but work is underway.
- While the suspension of classes has been deemed to be indefinite, it is not known what timeframe will be involved as this will depend on decisions made by Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer.

Please note:

The parent portal in PowerSchool will be paused starting March 20 to ensure information displayed is consistent with direction from the provincial Response Planning Team.

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Family Resources:

Student [Resources](#) from Prairie Spirit School Division

Ministry of Education Resources for Parents:

- [Math at Home](#)
- [Literacy at Home](#)

How to Protect Yourself: [Canadian Centre for Disease Control](#)

Handwashing [directions](#) from Saskatchewan Health Authority (GermSmart)

Public Health Agency, Government of Canada: [Updates](#)

	The education sector in the province is currently paused.
	The education pause will be in place from March 20 - 27.
	Effective Friday, March 20, all Prairie Spirit schools and offices are closed.
	Wash your hands often with soap and warm water, or use a hand sanitizer.
	Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
	No tissue? Cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.
	Take good care of yourself and your family. Be kind!