



March 22, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are aware, all publicly funded schools in the province will be closed for the two weeks following March Break (until Sunday, April 5, 2020). As well, in the past week, the federal and provincial governments have announced additional closures and further restrictions on travel and community gatherings.

We are committed to providing you with regular updates throughout this rapidly evolving situation. We will continue to provide updates through the Board website, Board social media accounts, School Messenger and teacher outreach.

Here are the updates for the week of March 16-20, 2020:

### **EQAO/OSSLT**

The Ministry of Education has announced it is **cancelling all EQAO assessments** (grade 3, 6 and 9) for the remainder of this school year given the school closure period and the ongoing uncertainty.

For students who are graduating this year, the Ministry of Education waived the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) graduation requirement. Students who are not graduating this school year will have the opportunity to write the OSSLT next school year (2020-2021).

### **Online learning resources**

The Ministry of Education has launched an online learning site called **Learn at Home**, [www.ontario.ca/page/learn-at-home](http://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-at-home) with a single point of access for use during the closure period. We will also post this site on the ALCDSB board website - [www.alcdsb.on.ca](http://www.alcdsb.on.ca).

### **Post-secondary admissions**

The Ministry of Education has been in communication with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to make sure that the acceptance process for graduating students is without prejudice. Once details are available, we will post them on [www.alcdsb.on.ca](http://www.alcdsb.on.ca).

### **Resources for talking to children about COVID-19 and community resources**

These are unprecedented times and can provoke fear, anxiety and misunderstanding. We need to help students understand elements of COVID-19 and its impacts on their daily lives. Please find several resources to use and outreach sources on [www.alcbsb.on.ca](http://www.alcbsb.on.ca).

## Food scarcity

Many of our students and their families rely on the Student Nutrition programs in every school to provide nutritious and regular food. Due to school closures, these programs are closed. For help with food scarcity there has been a collaborative effort between school boards, multiple agencies and resources to support our families and students. For anyone in the Hastings Prince Edward Counties, your school principal will be sending out contact information through school messenger, school websites and social media. For those in the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Counties, we have published information on the ALCDSB website.

## Archdiocese Information

The Archdiocese of Kingston has an outreach page at [www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/outreach](http://www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/outreach). Parents/guardians, students and community members are able to access daily mass through this website.

## April 6, 2020 and beyond

The Ministry of Education is hosting teleconferences with school boards twice a week to discuss issues and plan for the return to classes on **April 6, 2020**. They are asking all school boards to use the upcoming school closure period to develop a plan should an extension be required. The goal of this plan would be to restore teacher led learning to the greatest extent possible, recognizing the challenges in doing so while respecting the direction of Public Health officials. The plan would support teachers in connecting with their students to ensure the successful completion of the school year, to support students in advancing to the next school year and where applicable to graduate.

In closing, our senior team has been meeting regularly and planning for the supports required by students and staff upon their return to their Catholic school learning communities. Please continue to check [www.alcdsb.on.ca](http://www.alcdsb.on.ca) for updates regarding our academic and well-being plan if there is an extension of the school closure period.

Please stay safe by following the directions of our Federal and Provincial governments and Public Health officials. May the Lord keep you in the palm of His hand.

Sincerely,



David DeSantis  
Director of Education

***“So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10***