

April 15, 2020

Dear Families and Students:

Central's staff would like to thank you all for your words of encouragement and support these past two weeks. We hope this letter finds you doing well during this time of uncertainty.

Our focus is to maintain a strong connection with our school community in order to make sure our students, and their families, are healthy and safe. We will also endeavour to create a sense of normalcy while we support our students in their continued learning.

While each teacher will use a variety of approaches to connect with learners, I am writing to update you on some common elements you can expect as we move forward. By now you will have connected with all your teachers and there should be a plan in place for students to gradually start on their continued learning. Our school staff, and many parents, have expressed how much it has meant to them to reconnect with one another.

Schools are a vital part of our communities and we know the suspension of in-class instruction, along with so many other significant changes to our lives, has impacted you deeply. Our school staff are working hard to build community outside of the walls of our school, as well as to provide students with a routine and continued learning opportunities.

LEARNING FROM HOME: WHAT TO EXPECT

Grades 8-12: Teachers will focus on specific and important curricular competencies in their subject areas. In our semester system, teachers will assign up to 2-3 hours/course for a total of approximately 10-15 hours per week (this total is based on a student working with four courses).

Report Cards: On May 4th all students will receive a <u>Term 3</u> report card. It is a snap shot of the work completed between Feb 1 to March 13. This report will be available on our Parent Portal on May 4th. Moving forward, all students are encouraged to engage in remote learning opportunities provided by their teachers. All students will receive a <u>Final Report Card in June.</u> We will have more specific details to follow in the upcoming weeks.

Moving to the Next Grade and Graduation: When Minister of Education Rob Fleming announced the suspension of all K-12 in-class instruction on March 17, he assured families about movement to the next grade, graduation, and what's being done to support transition to post-secondary. You can see Minister Fleming's full letter to students and families here.

Professional Development Days: The Professional development days scheduled for our school and the district will continue to be non-instructional days for students

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

During this time, we realize parents are busy and face their own unique pressures. There is no expectation for parents to do the job of teachers. We have always valued the partnership between educators and parents/caregivers and we encourage you to engage in your child's learning as much or as little as suits your family.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Burnaby School District's <u>Continuing Learning Website</u> contains resources and self-directed learning activities across a wide variety of subject areas.

The Ministry of Education's <u>Keep Learning Website</u> provides learning and other resources for students and families.

Resources to support families, curated links and updates can be found on the <u>Burnaby School District's website</u>, which is regularly updated.

QUESTIONS

You can find answers to many questions in a Frequently Asked Question document prepared by and continuously updated by the Ministry of Education here.

Please know that your child's teachers, their counsellors and the Admin are available to help if you have any questions.

If the complexity in your life has you needing support, there is much we can do to assist and/or connect you with the right resources. If you have questions, I encourage you to reach out to one of the school staff, one of the counsellors or to me.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Your child's teacher and/or I will continue to update you as we move forward.

As we embrace this style of teaching, we will be learning and growing together. There will be both successes and bumps along the way as we all adjust. School staff and I are appreciative of your understanding and partnership, as we create a new culture of learning and support our students.

Please take care and stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Dew

Dianne Carr, Principal Burnaby Central Secondary School

