

Message to All Staff RE January Changes

December 21, 2020

Subject Line: Changes to Schools in January

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier today, the Ministry of Education announced the closure of in-person schools to students following the winter break in accordance with the [Provincewide Shutdown](#) to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

In-person elementary students will return to in-person learning on Monday, January 11, 2021. In-person secondary students will return to in-person learning on Monday, January 25, 2021.

All elementary and secondary students will be learning virtually during the period that in-person schools are closed. We recognize that this shutdown will have a detrimental impact on many families that we serve and our goal is to support children through what may be an unsettling time.

Both elementary and secondary schools will be holding virtual staff meetings on Monday, January 4 in the morning and we are asking school staff to have a check-in with students in the afternoon.

This closure does not impact school-based administrators, office and custodial staff who will be required to attend school sites in order to support the effective running of school operations as we anticipate there are some school based tasks that are required to be completed. School-based educators have the option to attend school sites if they are unable to provide quality remote instruction to students from home.

While schools are closed, an exception can be made for students with specialized programs. In-person learning, commencing January 5 2021, will be made an available option for students in the following program placements: Developmental, Practical Learning Programs and Structured Learning Classes - (alternative curriculum). A survey is being sent directly to parents/caregivers of students in these programs to survey their interest in-person learning during the period of announced closure.

Employee groups not based in schools will be receiving a separate communication outlining the approach that we are taking during the period that we are in a Provincewide Shutdown.

We are also communicating to elementary and secondary families this evening to outline the approach we are taking and have attached those letters to this e-mail for your information.

In line with our commitment to you, we want those staff who are off to enjoy this time off and encourage everyone to focus on taking care of your mental health and well-being during the holidays. Our goal is to avoid further communications with you unless it becomes necessary.

Sincerely,

Norah Marsh
Director of Education

Jim Markovski
Acting Associate Director, Academic Services

David Wright
Associate Director, Corporate Services

Heather Mundy
Superintendent of Human Resources

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