



March 18, 2020

Dear parents, guardians, students, staff and community members,

I want to first send our thoughts and well wishes to the families that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These are unprecedented times in our world, and we must come together to do all that we can to stop the spread of the virus and flatten the curve in our community, province and country. Together we are strong and, with the guidance of local, provincial and federal leadership, we will prevail.

Yesterday at noon the provincial government [announced](#) that all in-class instruction in BC schools has been suspended indefinitely. Minister of Education Rob Fleming indicated that government will be working with school districts and partners before the end of spring break to plan for the continuation of learning and to maintain some level of educational services.

Minister Fleming also made a commitment that every student will receive a final mark for this school year and that all students on-track to move to the next grade in the fall will do so. All grades 10 and 11 graduation assessments will be postponed and every grade 12 student eligible to graduate will graduate. Grade 12 students who still require the grade 10 graduation assessment will be provided the opportunity to complete that assessment. In addition, a commitment was made to develop plans to maintain some level of service for children whose parents are performing essential services to the community.

I recognize that this announcement has caused anxiety for many families in regards to supports and services for their students beyond spring break. We have already been working behind the scenes to plan for March 30 and we will continue to liaise with the Ministry of Education regarding our plans for the continuation of learning. In the meantime, the district has posted an extensive list of “at home” [spring break activities](#) on our website.

I want to reassure you that we will continue to work as diligently as possible to best support our students, staff and families during this challenging time. Our commitment to you is to share information in a timely fashion as well as to post information on our district website to ensure clarity in communication.

This is, indeed, an unprecedented time, where each day brings new challenges. Regardless of the challenges, we live in a community where relationships, collaboration and pulling together are the norm in all that we do. All families are encouraged to keep up to date with the latest information available from our local and provincial health

authorities. For information about COVID-19, please visit the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#).

Thank you, again, for your understanding during this challenging time and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arul-pragasam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rohan Arul-pragasam  
Interim School Superintendent