

## Information Bulletin for Parents/Guardians December 23, 2020

On December 21, 2020, the Ontario Premier announced that the Province of Ontario will enter a period of public health restrictions beginning on December 26, 2020. This will last 14 days in Northern Ontario. In consultation with Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ministry of Education has directed that in Northern Ontario, all elementary and secondary schools who were attending face to face will engage in remote learning from January 4 – January 8, 2021. Face to face students are expected to return to in-person instruction on January 11, 2021.

### **So, what does this mean for the Elementary Remote Learning School?**

There are **no changes** to the remote learning school. Remote learning classes starts on Monday, January 4, as scheduled.

### **What does this mean for students enrolled in-person classes?**

- Remote learning starts on **Monday, January 4, for K- 12 students.**
- Parents will be contacted by staff on January 4<sup>th</sup> with guidance on how to access the platform and to get started in the virtual classroom.
- Educators will connect online with their class every day.
- Students will follow their regular school timetable. This schedule includes start and end times and recesses.
- In-person classes and transportation will resume the week of January 11, 2021.

### **What will Remote Learning look like?**

- Approximately 75% of the instructional day will be synchronous learning for students in Grades 1-8, and 25% will be delivered asynchronously.
- Students in Grades 9-12 will receive approximately 80% of their course delivered synchronously and 20% asynchronously.
- Our educators will use their professional judgement to provide flexibility to students who cannot fully participate in synchronous learning.
- Teachers will continue to provide various learning experiences, not all of which will require online computer-related instruction.
- Assessment continues during the remote learning period.

### **Student Supports**

- Students with special education needs will continue to be supported by their classroom teacher in the online environment. Students that receive resource or educational assistant support in person will receive similar supports in remote learning.
- On January 4, teachers of special education system classes will contact parents to support their child's ability to participate in a remote learning environment.

### **Mental Health Resources**

Our School Mental Health team will be reaching out to students and families throughout the week of January 4 to help provide resources and support. In addition, students and families can access further mental health resources, including Kids Help Phone, which offers 24/7 counselling and referral services across the province. To use this free resource, youths can call 1-800-668-6868, or text CONNECT to 686868. School Mental Health Ontario also has a number of great resources for students, parents and families on their website at [www.smho-smso.ca](http://www.smho-smso.ca).



### **Looking for Learning Resources?**

The Ministry of Education recently announced the launch of two new portals developed by Ontario certified teachers. **TVO Learn** and **TFO IDÉLLO, apprendre à la maison**. Secondary students can access TVO's **Independent Learning Centre (ILC) Open House** and Portes ouvertes pour les cours TVO ILC in French-language, which provides access to 144 Grade 9 to 12 courses.

We also provide a rich array of supports and resources in our Learning Support Hub for parents and students, located at [SCDSB Learning Hub](#).

### **Government Funding for High School Students**

A new Government Support Program for secondary student parents has been launched. If your child is between 13 years of age to Grade 12, you are eligible to receive a one-time payment of \$200 per eligible student to help offset education expenses. The application instructions will be available on the **Support for Learners web page**. Secondary school student applications will be open from January 11, 2021, to February 8, 2021.

### **Student Transportation**

There will be no student transportation services for either elementary or secondary students from January 4-8, 2021.

### **Extended Day Programs**

During the lockdown period, there will be no Extended Day Programs permitted in elementary schools.

### **Child Care Centres in Schools**

Emergency child-care is available for health care and frontline workers through the City of Greater Sudbury.

### **Electronic Device Distribution**

In October 2020, the Board sent out a survey to confirm which families would need a device should we be required to pivot to a remote learning model. Those that indicated that they would need a device for remote learning will be contacted through the school beginning January 4<sup>th</sup>. Those who did not indicate a need for a device and who now require one will be placed on a wait list in the event that there are extra devices available.

We will continue to update families on our Board website. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and partnership and for working together to help keep everyone safe. Should you have any questions please reach out to your school beginning on January 4, 2021.