



MR. REID LANSING, Principal  
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November 30, 2020

Dear Chester Ronning School Parents and Guardians;

Thank you for your patience and understanding over the past few days. As we move forward with changes to our current school year we want to acknowledge how difficult this is for everyone and we also want to reassure our school community that we are here to support to the best of our ability. We recognize that there are many questions being asked about the recent pandemic-related announcements so, at this time, we want to follow up from Superintendent Rita Marler's update earlier this week and provide as much information as we can. As you are aware, the Alberta government introduced a series of new COVID-19 measures related to our education system. The following measures are how education will be impacted.

**Grades 7-12 students:**

- Transition to learning at home is effective November 30, 2020.
- Learning at home will take place from November 30 - December 18, 2020 and January 4 - January 8, 2021.
- Resume in school learning January 11, 2021.
- Diploma exams are optional for the rest of the school year. Students and their families can choose whether to write an exam or receive an exemption for the January, April, June and August 2021 exams. If students decide to write a diploma, it will be worth 30% of their final mark.

**Grades K-6 students:**

- Continue in school learning until December 18, 2020.
- Learning at home from January 4 until January 8, 2021.
- Resume in school learning January 11, 2021.



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### **What learning at home will entail for Chester Ronning School Students:**

When schools responded to the COVID-19 restrictions last spring, it happened with no warning and required immediate action. Though we are once again transitioning to learning at home, the circumstances are different this time and we are better prepared. Plans and preparations for a variety of scenarios have been in place since the beginning of the year in the event this action needed to be taken. Therefore, unlike last March, expectations regarding student learning will be different. During the week of January 4-8, 2021, Parents and students can expect the learning to be more similar to a regular school day, however we do recognize that providing some flexibility is important as parents may be working, and siblings may need to share devices to support their learning, etc. As a result, please be prepared for the following:

- Although Literacy and Numeracy outcomes will be prioritized during this week, curricular outcomes and course instruction will ensure that students' learning remains on track for the second quarter, which ends on February 2nd, 2021.
- Online classroom lessons/meetings will be staggered throughout the day so that these days will be a closer approximation of a "normal" school day.
- Grades K-3 online classes for each grade-level will be staggered to facilitate sharing of devices for families.
- Consistent attendance is extremely important for student success. Attendance will be taken twice each day, through participation in Google Meets or through another format, that allows teachers to confirm that students are engaged in the scheduled learning for the day. (If students will not be engaged in learning on a particular day, parents should call the CRS office, just as they usually would, to inform the school of their absence.)
- Although the first week back from holidays often includes review of concepts from before the break, assessment will continue as it normally would for in-class programming.
- Google classroom, Gmail, and Google Meet will be the main tools used to communicate with students but other formats may be used by individual teachers.
- Non-core subjects such as Phys. Ed. and Art will not regularly be taught in an online format, although activities for these subjects will be posted online and/or sent home in paper-copy packages. (Non-core teachers may still schedule Meets at their discretion.)
- Our Family School Liaison Worker and Mental Health Capacity Building Team will still be available to provide online support for students and classes. More information around these supports will be shared in the coming days.
- Paper-copy materials should be brought back, completed, on January 11.

As we are provided with updates from our Division Office Leaders and Government Agencies, we will continue to share them with you. Again, Mrs. McLeod and I thank you for all your support as we work through this transition. We look forward to having all our Students return to school on January 11th.

Sincerely,  
Reid Lansing and Candice McLeod