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April 3rd, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of BTPS Students,

We hope this letter finds you all well. We are at the end of our first full week of learning at home and the BTPS Learning Continuity Plan. Up to this point we have been focusing our attention on the logistics of providing learning materials for students and establishing how that might happen. We have students who are working on-line and some who are working in a paper based model. It is important that this flexibility be there and we appreciate the efforts of students, parents and staff to make this happen.

With the decision to cancel in-school classroom instruction, Alberta Education set out their expectations of how learning will continue for Alberta students at home until the end of June. As you may recall from my March 20th letter, the Minister of Education stated:

Content delivery for each grade is broken down as follows:

Kindergarten-Grade 3

Education content will focus on language/literacy and mathematics/numeracy outcomes of the provincial curriculum.

Grades 4-6

Education content will continue to focus on language/literacy and mathematics/numeracy outcomes, and there will be opportunity to incorporate science and social studies outcomes through cross-curricular learning.

Grades 7-9

Education content will focus on core mathematics, language/literacy, science and social studies curriculum outcomes.

Grades 10-12

Education content will focus on specified and core courses required for high school graduation requirements, including language (English, French and French language arts), social studies, mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics.

Content from other courses will be delivered where possible, and accommodations for students unable to complete courses are in place.

It was also shared that:

- Every student will receive final grades and will receive a report card (via Parent Portal), appropriate to their grade level.
- Teachers will be responsible for assessing a student's progress and assigning a final grade.
- All students who were on track to progress to the next grade will. A student cannot be held back as a result of an interruption to learning caused by school closure.
- Where possible, schools will work with high school students to complete their courses (including courses taken through Students Online) to the best of their ability, providing a final mark and awarding credits.

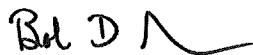
Under this direction, education for students will continue until the end of the school year. Students who are on track to move to the next grade level will do so, but it is important to understand that there is a great deal of content that needs to be completed between now and the end of June. **We have asked our teachers to focus on the key learning goals for students.** We want to have your children as ready as we can to begin the next school year, at the next grade level, in the best possible academic position. Your child's teacher will be delivering that content through whatever means has been determined. This will be done under the time guidelines set by the Minister in that same directive.

Good assessment practice has always been our expectation and it continues to be a part of our BTPS Learning Continuity Plan. As always, teachers will use their professional judgement to determine which assessments will be formative (used to inform future learning for a student) and which will be summative (used for a mark). Progress of student learning will be communicated with parents regularly using various methods (i.e. PowerTeacher, emails, phone calls, etc.) as per existing best practice. Parents can contact teachers to discuss progress, seek clarification and address concerns.

We have had some questions about the requirement for students to complete the school year. It is very clear that the Minister of Education expects student learning to continue until the end of June. Assessments will reflect key learning goals and teachers will use informed professional judgement when assigning grades. As always, the assignment of final grades will be the responsibility of the teacher. Assessment information gathered through the year (including from now until the end of June) will be used by the teacher to determine that final grade. Students are expected to participate in the learning.

We know that this has placed additional demands upon you as a parent. **We want you to know that you are not alone.** Our staff is willing and ready to work with you to support learning at home. If you having problems or need anything, please contact your child's teacher. If you still need assistance, your child's principal can help.

Take care,



Bob Allen
Superintendent



Lanie Parr
Board Chair