

MARGARET WARD  
Superintendent/CEO



AL LEIMAN  
Secretary-Treasurer

TYLER MORAN  
Assistant Superintendent

*“Preparing Today’s Learner for Tomorrow”*

April 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At the advice of the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, all classroom learning for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students has been suspended indefinitely for this school year. Classes will resume when it is safe to do so, based on public health recommendations.

While schools remain closed to students, learning will continue. Each of ISD’s schools is developing a plan for the continuity of student programming unique to the needs of the students and the families in their communities. We will continue to trust the experience and expertise of our teachers to ensure continued opportunities for learning are: accessible for all students, aligned with familiar teaching and learning strategies, and suitable for students to pursue independently and, where available, with adult support.

ISD has developed two appendices, which are attached to this letter to support schools and families in planning for continued student learning:

- **Appendix A – Learning Expectations:** Clearly defined learning expectations for K-12 based on guidelines provided by Manitoba Education.
- **Appendix B – Roles & Responsibilities:** Suggested roles and responsibilities for Principals, Teachers, Parents/Guardians, and Students during the suspension of classroom learning.

Additional information and support for Parents/Guardians can be found at Manitoba Education’s newly released *My Learning at Home* website: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/mylearning>

We recognize that this is a challenging time for everyone. It requires compassion, flexibility and a different approach to teaching and learning. Each student and family have unique needs and circumstances. ISD remains committed to being flexible in our planning for learning at home and to paying close attention to the mental health and well-being of all. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Margaret Ward'.

Margaret Ward  
Superintendent/CEO  
Interlake School Division

## Appendix A – Learning Expectations

### All Grades:

- Teachers will continue to direct the learning.
- At-home learning will be facilitated by teachers who will support their students via online platforms and print-based materials, with outreach for students who are at-risk.
- Students are expected to continue learning and complete assigned work.
- Teachers will continue to teach in the language of instruction in the classroom.
- Regular personal connections will be made with students and families via phone, email, or other resources.
- Teachers will continue to set goals for students and assess progress.
- All students will receive final grades and a report card in June. Learning needs for September will be identified on the June report card.

### Kindergarten – Grade 8:

- Teacher-directed learning will focus on literacy and numeracy with opportunities for science and social studies, physical education/health education and the arts through cross-curricular planning.
- Learning can be done through hands-on activities, print materials and/or online platforms and resources.
- It is recommended that teachers plan an average of five hours per week of curriculum-based learning for students in K-4, and 10 hours per week for students in grades 5-8.
- Students in K-8 will proceed to the next grade in September.

### Grades 9 – 12:

- Students in Grade 9 – 12 will receive a baseline mark as at March 20, 2020. They will have the opportunity to increase their mark through the period of learning at home.
- All high school students who were on track to complete course credits will receive, at minimum, the grade they had achieved at the time of the suspension of classes.
- Students in Grade 9 – 12 with a baseline mark below 50% in a course as at March 20, 2020, will need to improve their course mark to greater than 50% in order to achieve the course credit.
- Specific planning will take place to ensure that all students with sufficient credits to graduate will graduate.
- Special efforts will be made for Grades 11 and 12 students to ensure they have the knowledge, skills and competencies necessary for their post-graduation goals.
- Teachers will prioritize learning outcomes/expectations and plan specific curriculum-related tasks for students. Where feasible, teachers of multiple subjects may work together to develop cross-curricular learning experiences.
- It is recommended that Grades 9 - 12 teachers plan for 3 hours of curriculum-based learning per course per week for semester courses, and 1.5 hour of learning per course per week for non-semestered courses.
- The Grade 12 provincial assessments scheduled for May/June 2020 are cancelled.

## **Appendix B – Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Principals and Vice-Principals will:**

- Participate in divisional planning.
- Implement provincial and divisional expectations for teaching, learning and assessment, within the local context.
- Review and re-allocate resources as needed to facilitate teaching and learning (i.e. non-teaching staff, technology, online platforms, print-based materials).
- Mobilize supports for students at risk.
- Support school staff as they change and adapt to learning at home.
- Facilitate regular personal connections with each teacher via phone, email, or other resources.
- Ensure that home/school communication continues with families.

### **Teachers will:**

- Collaborate with school administration to implement the plans for teaching and learning.
- Evaluate curricular outcomes that have not yet been covered and prioritize remaining outcomes based on what is manageable for students working from home.
- Provide equitable learning opportunities for all students.
- Work closely with families to implement learning opportunities that support grade-level outcomes.
- Facilitate regular personal connections with students and families via phone, email, or other resources.
- Provide ongoing support for student learning, including support for families for learning at home.
- Monitor and assess student learning.
- Assign a final grade and identify future learning needs.

### **Parents/Guardians will:**

- Support the teacher to ensure that learning continues.
- Encourage students to continue their school learning plans at home.
- Look for opportunities to promote learning within the context of daily life.
- Maintain ongoing communication with teachers.

### **Students will:**

- Establish daily routines for engaging in learning experiences.
- Actively participate in learning and complete assigned work.
- Reflect on progress, set goals for learning and identify next steps.
- Talk to parents and teachers about any concerns or difficulties.

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**COVID-19 Update: March 31, 2020**

The Interlake School Division is committed to providing accurate and timely information to students, staff, parents/guardians, and the community during these unprecedented times.

Following the recommendations of the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, the Minister of Education has directed all schools to suspend classroom learning indefinitely for this school year.

Key points provided in the Province’s news release of March 31, 2020:

- Teachers will teach remotely, assign work, conduct assessments, and prepare final report cards.
- All students will be expected to actively engage in remote learning.
- Students who were on track to graduate this year will graduate.
- Grade 12 provincial exams will be cancelled.
- No student will be held back a grade because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Students will receive a final grade and report card in June, 2020.
- Schools will maintain essential staffing to allow teachers to access resources.
- Schools will ensure appropriate social distancing and increase cleaning for infection prevention.

Planning is underway to develop a Provincial framework for teaching and learning for the remainder of the school year. Manitoba Education will share the specific framework along with more details in the days ahead. To assist in planning, Manitoba Education has established planning teams related to the following seven priority areas:

- Distance and Online Learning Technology
- Child Nutrition
- Students without Technology
- Clinical Supports and Special Needs
- K-8 Assessment and Learning
- Grade 9-12 Assessment and Learning
- Graduating Students and Adult Learners

We recognize that this is a difficult time for our communities. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this challenging situation. We commit to keeping you updated in the days and weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ward  
Superintendent/CEO  
Interlake School Division

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MARGARET WARD  
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Assistant Superintendent

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March 18, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As shared in the letter distributed to families on March 13, Manitoba Education & Training will suspend classroom teaching in schools effective March 23, 2020 for three weeks, including the week of spring break.

Under the direction of Manitoba Education and Training, planning is now underway for schools to provide as much continuity as possible in the education of students. We will trust the experience and expertise of our teachers during the suspension of classroom teaching to ensure learning opportunities are:

- accessible for all students;
- aligned with familiar teaching and learning strategies; and,
- suitable for students to pursue independently and, where available, with adult support.

A clear plan for ongoing communication between schools and parents/guardians during the suspension of classroom teaching in schools is critical. Communication plans will vary by school and by community and will be shared by Friday, March 20. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to ensure schools have access to current contact information.

The situation around COVID-19 continues to evolve rapidly. Thank you for your patience and support. Archived correspondence will be posted online at: [www.interlakesd.ca](http://www.interlakesd.ca)

Sincerely,

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March 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This afternoon the Interlake School Division learned that Manitoba Education & Training has decided to suspend classroom teaching in schools effective March 23, 2020 for three weeks, including the week of spring break. This will allow time for families, educators and school divisions to plan for alternative arrangements while the number of presumptive and confirmed cases of the coronavirus COVID-19 remains low.

Schools will operate as normal during the week of March 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, with the exception of the following, which have been suspended until further notice:

- All extra-curricular events
- All field trips
- All continuing education courses
- All facility bookings with the exception of daycares located in schools

Staff and students who are ill are asked to stay home, regardless of recent travel. For the most up-to-date recommendations from Public Health Officials in Manitoba regarding self-monitoring and self-isolation, please visit: [www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus/](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus/)

Our schools will continue to follow public health protocols for reporting illnesses, rely on advice from the regional health authorities and ensure adherence to the Personal Health Information Act (PHIA). Public Health Officials are responsible for reporting new positive cases of COVID-19.

We know that the situation around COVID-19 is rapidly evolving. Further updates regarding programming in ISD will be posted online at [www.interlakesd.ca](http://www.interlakesd.ca)

Sincerely,

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