

Turtle River School Division

Box 309 – McCreary, MB R0J 1B0
Telephone: (204) 835-2067 – Fax: (204) 835-2426
Website: trsd.ca

Beverly Szymesko
Superintendent of Schools

Shannon Desjardins
Secretary Treasurer

April 10th, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians;

I have been inspired and amazed at the incredible work I see being completed by everyone! Students are continuing their learning and completing great work at home. Parents, guardians, and homes have stepped up to support their children engaging in learning at home as guided by teachers. I applaud all of you and thank you for your patience. Division and School staff members have also altered their work in order to support students while keeping everyone safe by following the provincial health recommendations. When combined, this equates to making things better for students and families. I would like you to know that I appreciate the hard work you are all doing in this extraordinary time; you should know that you are all making a difference. As Easter is upon us, it is important to remember to take a break from learning and working at home in order to refresh our health both mentally and physically in this stressful time.

As we continue to move forward you will see some changes coming to the home-learning model. Principals will be communicating to you the suggested guidelines teachers are adopting as guided by the Minister of Education in Manitoba. I want you to know that a lot of thought was placed on these developed guidelines in order to support students and families. These guidelines are also similar to other provinces. Every community and school will have slight differences based on various factors. Please refer to your school letters for school specific information.

The following core guidelines will be standard throughout the division:

- **Learning Expectations** - Students are expected to engage in learning outcomes and activities, which will be in either printed format, online learning, or a combination, depending on student need. Teacher deliver will be different from grade to grade and class to class.
- **Learning Focus** – Mathematics and English Language Arts will be the main focus areas with some inclusion of other subject areas when possible (e.g. Science, Social Studies, Art & Physical Education).
- **Time Allotment for Student Work at Home:**
 - Grades K to 4 – 5 hours / week
 - Grades 5 to 8 – 10 hours / week
 - Grades 9 to -12 – 3 hours/week /course (*includes elective courses*)

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- **Distribution and Collection of Student Work**
 - Schools will setup a way to distribute student learning packages. This may be done through online technology or through print packages. Your school will setup a method for work packages to be distributed to students and families. Health and Safety of everyone is being strongly considered and schools will be instituting social distancing and interaction recommendations as per Manitoba Health. Watch for further explanations from your school/teachers.
 - Schools will also determine a way to collect back student completed work. Teachers will correct and mark the student work. They will not return the work to limit the transfer of viruses, but instead provide students with feedback. They will then plan for the learning needs of each student to support their development of the essential learning concepts.
 - Frequency of Packages may vary from school to school. We have suggested two-week periods at a time, but each school and class may vary slightly depending on unique factors and circumstances.
- **Assessment** *(not yet made official by Manitoba Education)*
 - Students will receive feedback from their submitted work from their teachers. Students may also be provided further learning materials to support the development of skills in areas they require additional practice.
 - All Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will pass on to their next grade level (students who do not engage in work may require learning recovery when school resumes, as pre-requisite skills are a foundation for literacy and numeracy)
 - All Students in All Grades have an opportunity to improve their marks. Students will have an opportunity to increase their marks with demonstrated learning through completed work and teacher assessments. (marks will not decrease from April baseline mark)
 - Grades 9-12 students have an opportunity to increase their academic standing and obtain their course credits in courses that they were not currently passing as of March 20, 2020. If students were not in good standing in their courses, and do not continue learning and completing the requirements set out by their teachers, they may not receive their credit. Continues learning and the submission of quality work is required to increase their mark to a passing grade.
 - Grade 12 students on track to graduate will graduate if they meet the requirements to receive their diploma. Principals and Guidance Teachers will keep in contact with students.
 - Grade 12 Provincial ELA and Mathematic exams have been cancelled for June

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- Teachers will be working from home during regular school hours and will be available for support during this time. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher(s) at any time during the regular school hours. Teachers are there to support you and your child in learning from home.
- Teachers have been asked to communicate with parents / students at least once a week. This may take on one of many forms; from email, to telephone call, to a text or using an app. Please feel free to contact your school's principal at any time as well. They are also available to help.
- Resources – if your child requires any learning resources (pens, paper, etc.), please communicate with your child's teacher/school.
- Personal items belonging to your child from their locker or desk will be collected by teachers and available for pick-up at a date that will be announced as soon as possible. Watch for further communication from your child's teacher and principal as to when this will be ready to occur.

Please know, we are here to support you as we progress together down this path,

Sincerely,

Bev. Szymesko, Superintendent

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