



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**
Every Student Succeeds

   **GPPSD2357**

Friday, March 20, 2020

Hello to everyone in the Grande Prairie Public School Community

Reflecting on the week that was, I am in awe of the manner in which all of you responded to the dramatic change in our school reality. I have seen and heard stories of parents, staff and students reaching out to each other to stay connected during a time of great uncertainty and pledging to work together to make the best of our situation. I have seen and heard of tremendous acts of caring and it is those acts and those relationships that have sustained us through the past 5 school days.

In the week since classes were cancelled the uncertainty about our situation has not lessened. While the situation in our community changes daily, the uncertainty about what learning will look like in the future is starting to go away. The Minister of Education released guidelines today to support school divisions to plan for student learning. The guidelines are fair, student-focused and exactly what our administrators needed to finalize our Division planning and to prepare their teachers. Our teachers are excited and are ready to modify their approach to helping students learn the essential outcomes that remain. I am proud of the hard and thoughtful work of our staff this week.

Early next week, administrators from each school will send parents a general overview of the learning plan for each school. The distribution of specific lessons will begin for K-6 and K-8 schools on Thursday, March 26 and weekly lessons will follow. Parents of high school students can expect the initial lessons to be distributed between March 26 and April 1, depending on the course, and the distribution of weekly lesson packages beginning on April 6.

Learning from home unquestionably offers some challenges, but it also opens the door for creative and innovative ways of learning to occur. We will be flexible, adaptive and accommodating as we learn together moving forward. In doing so, I encourage you all to stay connected, to ask each other questions, and to work together for the benefit of our students. I also encourage you to please keep the health and safety of everyone a priority, and to continue to do those things the experts say will contribute to the overall health of our community.

Take care.

Alexander (Sandy) McDonald
Superintendent of Schools
Grande Prairie Public School District