

Family Communication Regarding Supplemental Learning

Message from the Director

Dear parents and caregivers,

I want to begin by saying thank you for your continued support of our schools and our staff members. The pandemic is much more than a disruption to our lives but I want to assure you that education will continue during and after these turbulent times. Our schools in the North East School Division will always be there to support your children and we appreciate your support.

Our schools and the school division have been working to align our efforts with the new provincial expectations for supplemental learning. We have made the necessary adaptations to school division operations so that we can deliver education in a new and safe way. Our schools have been busy preparing new ways to communicate effectively with families and to provide for continued learning to students. Teachers in the North East School Division will do their best to be accessible to provide regular guidance and support to students and families through this time of transition. We hope that teachers can maintain education to our students from now until their return to school, but not overburden your family.

As we endeavor to support learning in a new way, we will encounter challenges and we will discover solutions, together. Safety for our students, staff and community will remain our priority.

In the weeks ahead our province's response to the pandemic will evolve as will our work in education. We will continue to provide regular updates to families on our website www.nesd.ca.

Sincerely,



Don Rempel, Director of Education
North East School Division

Key Principles:

- The NESD is committed to providing all students an opportunity to learn and to support their overall well-being.
- Our teachers, administrators and additional support staff such as Student Services personnel will remain connected to students, families and the communities they serve.
- To engage all families and students, teachers should employ multiple modes of delivery as available to them.
- Families and caregivers are not expected to deliver Saskatchewan curriculum.
- Programming decisions are to be made with the most flexibility to ensure vulnerable students and families are not underserved during this unique period.
- Teachers are best positioned to offer supplementary learning opportunities to the students they are currently teaching, should their students/families choose to take advantage of them.

Pre-Kindergarten

Supplemental Learning Opportunities:

- Teachers will connect with families using formats appropriate for the families they serve.
- Teachers will share with families opportunities that encourage holistic learning including language and literacy, fine and gross motor skills as well as social and emotional learning.

Kindergarten – Grade 3

All families are strongly encouraged to engage in supplementary learning opportunities to ensure the requisite skills are in place for fall start up.

Supplemental Learning Opportunities:

- As a means to engage all students and to ensure equity, teachers will employ various modes of delivery to respond to family and student needs.
- Supplemental learning opportunities will focus on language/literacy and mathematics/numeracy development.
- However, to ensure that we continue to support and develop students from a holistic approach other subjects will continue to be offered where possible.
- A cross-curricular, balanced approach is strongly encouraged.

Assessment

- Teachers will use their professional discretion to determine the appropriate assessment practices.

Reporting

- Final progress reporting for those who choose to participate in supplemental learning will reflect outcomes assessed during this period and generated at the end of June and placed in the student's cumulative folder no later than June 30, 2020.
- For those who may choose not to engage in supplemental learning, the final progress report in June will reflect assessment completed up to March 13, 2020 and be placed in the student's cumulative folder no later than June 30, 2020.

Transitions

- All students will be promoted to the next grade in the 2020-21 school year.
- To reiterate, it is very important for students to continue to engage in learning activities during this period.

Students with Additional Needs

- Diversity Education Teacher's will be collaborating with classroom teachers and families to support individualized programming for these students.
- Transition planning will occur, as they would normally later in the spring.

Grades 4 - 9

1. Subject and Homeroom teachers will contact guardians with the desired method indicated earlier (email or phone call). They will follow up with the following messages:
 - a. All Families are strongly encouraged to engage in supplementary learning opportunities.
 - b. The opportunities can be customized depending on the needs of the student and the technology available to the family.
 - c. The details of the various options are below.
2. The decision does not need to be determined right away. Parents can re-visit at a later time after they have had a chance to consider the options.

Options for Student Progress and Learning (Grades 4-9)

A. Student will focus on language/literacy and mathematics/numeracy development.

Other subject content will be explored in addition to the literacy and numeracy learning activities. Teachers will work collectively to establish the key learning outcomes that are to be a focus to the end of June. Considerations with this choice include:

- i. Instruction may include the student interacting digitally with the teacher, through instructions shared with the parent (example: paper or email) or a combination of the two.
- ii. Assessment may include digital feedback and communication to the student and parent, communication through the parent (example: paper or email) or a combination of the two.

Next Steps: If family opts to continue with the supplemental learning, then the next step will be to establish a communication protocol between the student and teacher and family. This includes method and schedule of communicating.

- B. If the parent indicates a student will not continue engage in supplemental learning opportunities.** The grade will be as of March 13, 2020 as displayed in StudentsAchieve. The student will progress to the next grade. No further dialogue will be expected between this subject teacher and the student. Considerations with this choice include:
- i. **This option will have implications for the students for the following year.** In September supports will be structured to ensure the student has opportunity to learn key learning outcomes.
 - ii. In the event the student wants to re-engage in the course content, a supplemental learning plan will be established between the subject teacher and the student at any time.

We will support students NO MATTER the decision of the family. Supports will also be planned for in the fall.

Grades 10 - 12

1. Before April 8, 2020 a teacher will consult with parents of grade 10-12 students to discuss the options of pursuing supplemental learning opportunities for the subjects available this semester.
 - a. The goal is for students to continue to engage in learning.
 - d. The details of the various options are below.
2. A decision to continue with supplemental learning does not need to be determined right away. Parents can re-visit in a day or two, after they have had a chance to consider the options.
3. Parents and students can be assured that communication will occur in the coming weeks in regard to next year's course selection and scheduling.

Options for Student Progress and Learning (Grades 10 –12)

- A. Student will continue to engage in course content.** The teacher will establish the key learning outcomes that are required prior to the end of June. This option will best support the students learning continuum in the subject. Grade considerations with this choice include:
- i. The student completes the key learning outcomes and the overall grade is lowered compared to the March 13, 2020 grade. In this case the student will still receive the March 13, 2020 grade (the higher of the two).
 - ii. The student completes the key learning outcomes and the overall grade is higher compared to the March 13, 2020 grade. In this case, the student will receive the higher grade.
 - iii. The student opts out at some point between now and the end of June or does not complete the key learning outcomes. The student receives the

either the March 13, 2020 grade or the current grade, whichever is higher.

Next Steps:

If parents and students choose to continue learning, then the next step is to establish a communication protocol between the student and teacher and family. This includes methods and schedule of communicating.

- B. **Student will not continue to engage in the course content.** The grade will be as of March 13, 2020 as displayed in StudentsAchieve. If the mark was less than 50%, the final grade will be corrected to 50%. Unless requested, no further dialogue will be expected between this subject teacher and the student. Grade considerations with this choice include:
- i. **This option will have implications for the students timetable** for the following year. For example, the student may be scheduled for a support course instead of an additional course or spare.
 - ii. If student opts out, a further contact will be made to discuss the course pathway/selection options in a few weeks (for grade 9 – 11 students).
 - iii. In the event the student wants to re-engage in the course content, a supplemental learning plan will be established between the subject teacher and the student.

We will support students no matter the decision of the family. Supports will also be planned for the fall.

- C. **Due to the nature of some courses, specific classes will need to be discontinued as of March 13, 2020.** The students in these courses will receive the March 13, 2020 grade as displayed in StudentsAchieve. After division approval of the discontinuation, teachers will personally communicate the discontinuation of these courses to their respective students with a concluding message with their final grade.