

May 21, 2020

## **DISTANCE LEARNING UPDATE**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you are probably aware the Minister of Education announced that our schools will remain closed until September 2020 due to COVID-19.

With eight weeks of distance learning behind us, our staff continues to have high expectations for students, and we want students to continue to have high expectations for themselves. The goal at this time is to ensure the successful completion of the school year for all students, and to support students to advance to the next school year, earn credits and to graduate. This situation is unlike anything we have seen before and now, more than ever, flexibility is fundamental to meeting the needs of our students and their families. Our shared goal continues to be to keep students engaged in learning and to help our students meet with success in the best way that they can.

As always, please be assured that our educators and support staff continue to reach out to students and families who may require extra support and encouragement. If you have any questions or concerns, please connect with your child's teacher(s). Supports can also be found on the [Learn @ Home](#) site. The following will provide further clarity to some of the questions you may have.

### **a) How will our students be graded?**

At the secondary level, student marks/levels/grades **will not be lower** than they were on, or at, school closure on March 13. Any assessment and evaluation after April 6 **can only be used to improve** a student's mark. There will be no final exams for secondary school students. Our educators will be assigning the final mark based on 70% attributed to semester work and 30% based on culminating task(s)/activities. Teachers will also be reporting on **Learning Skills and Work Habits**. These should reflect information gathered prior to March 13th. Final report cards will be distributed at the end of June.

At the elementary level, educators will use assessment for learning (formative assessment) to gather evidence related to how students are progressing and provide feedback to students. Final report cards will be completed and forwarded to you at the end of June. A student's final grade/mark **cannot be lower** than it was on March 13, 2020. Any assessment from now until June **can be used only to improve** the student's final marks. Learning Skills and Work Habits will reflect information gathered prior to March 13th.

**b) What will happen with graduation?**

Formal graduation ceremonies for Grade 8 and 12 students will be postponed to the Fall. Schools are currently planning to determine how to recognize graduates this spring and will communicate directly with students and families in the very near future with the details. Please note that the distribution of secondary school diplomas has been paused and will remain on hold until schools re-open. Schools are organizing ways in which to celebrate all Grade 6 students leaving their school this school year. Principals will be communicating directly with families.

**c) How does my child retrieve their personal belongings at school?**

Over the next few weeks we will be working with our local officer of Health to develop a plan to safely arrange for you to retrieve any items that may have been left at the school prior to the closure. Information will be shared as soon as possible.

**d) What about summer learning programs?**

**Secondary Credits**

The Sudbury Catholic District School Board offers secondary summer credit courses under the OSS curriculum guidelines. Students can get ahead or create more flexibility in their timetable next year by taking an eLearning course. Courses will run from **Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020** and include courses in religion, civics, careers and secondary learning strategies. Enhanced course offerings including credit recovery and Cooperative Education possibilities will be added as we await details of the enhanced summer learning program through the Ministry of Education. Parents and students are asked to consult with their day school guidance counsellor or vice-principal/principal regarding their course selections, prerequisite courses and diploma requirements.

**Grade 8 reach ahead**

Students in Grade 8 may take a reach ahead open level credit in Learning Strategies; Skills for Success in Secondary school as they prepare to enter high school in September.

**Elementary summer learning supports**

We do anticipate offering expanded summer learning opportunities for our elementary students this summer. We are awaiting more information from the Ministry of Education and will communicate as soon as possible.

Thank you once again for your support and your patience as we navigate this new way of teaching and learning. Please feel free to reach out to our staff if you have any questions and/or concerns. Please use our email [studenthelp@sudburycatholicschools.ca](mailto:studenthelp@sudburycatholicschools.ca) or contact your school directly (email and phone messages are being checked regularly during business hours).