



Good afternoon GMPS families!

I hope you have enjoyed some time together this week.

The purpose of this communication is to provide some direction about ONLINE LEARNING as announced by the Ministry of Education earlier this week.

Additionally, YRDSB sent a communication to families yesterday, advising of our return to ONLINE LEARNING as of Monday April 19, 2021. Extracts from this communication as they pertain to Elementary Schools are shared with you below.

On Monday April 19, 2021, teachers will provide students with asynchronous learning activities on Google Classroom. Synchronous learning will begin on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 and will follow the typical daily schedule. Please have your child(ren) check Google Classroom on Monday April 19, 2021 for specific information pertaining to their class.

Prior to the Break, we prepared for the possibility of a closure and students were sent home with learning materials and, if requested, Chromebooks. Should your child need to borrow a Chromebook during this closure period, please email me to make your request.

Here are extracts regarding Elementary Schools from the YRDSB communication sent yesterday:

Dear Families,

We hope that you are enjoying some much-deserved rest and relaxation during the April break.

As you know, earlier this week, the Ontario government announced that all Ontario schools will be closed to students beginning April 19. During this period, all students will participate in remote learning. This is in an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further to the message we sent to families on April 12, 2021, we are providing additional details on the return to learning April 19.

Elementary School

*For students already participating in **Elementary Virtual School (EVS)**, their schedule will continue as normal beginning April 19, 2021.*

Students who **attend school in person** for face-to-face learning will participate in virtual learning for the duration of the school closure. Students can expect:

- On April 19, teachers will provide asynchronous learning activities for students to engage in during the day.
- Beginning April 20 and continuing for the duration of the school closure, remote synchronous (live, online) learning will take place in accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines by grade:
 - Grades 1-8: 75 percent of instructional time
 - Kindergarten: 60 percent of instructional time

**Please refer to the Special Education section below for information about Community Classes.*

Technology Distribution

Some elementary students in face-to-face learning may require a Chromebook to access remote learning. Please contact your school if you require technology.

Special Education

YRDSB is committed to meeting the needs of all students, whether face-to-face or online. As staff review the teaching and learning opportunities for students with special education needs, safety continues to be a priority.

- **Elementary Community Classes** - All students in Elementary Community Classes will learn virtually during the week of April 19-23, 2021. Virtual teaching and learning will continue for most students through the duration of the school closure.
- The Ministry of Education has given school boards direction that most students with special education needs will be learning remotely during this period. In-person learning should be reserved for students that cannot be accommodated through remote learning. Similar to the last closure, there may be very few students in Multiple Exceptionality (ME) and Complex Needs Classrooms whose needs cannot be accommodated with online learning. For these students:
 - Teaching and learning will begin virtually during the week of April 19-23, 2021
 - As during the last closure, Community Class teachers will contact families to discuss the potential face-to-face accommodations starting by April 26, 2021. This contact will be made on April 19, 2021
 - During the last closure, there were a few students with significantly high needs that could not be accommodated online, and the student was not in a ME or Complex Needs class. School principals and Student Services Coordinators will review the previous plan to meet the students' needs, and determine next steps for this closure. Contact with these families will be made on April 19, 2021

o Transportation will be provided for students attending face-to-face starting April 26, 2021

We recognize that this pandemic and school closures can create additional challenges for students and families and want to remind you that mental health and community resources are available on the Board website.

We will continue to share information with families as it becomes available. Please continue to follow the Board's Twitter account [@YRDSB](#) or visit www.yrdsb.ca for updates. For information on vaccine eligibility and more from York Region Public Health, please visit www.york.ca/covid19.

Thank you for your ongoing support for public education and understanding and cooperation as we all do our best to minimize the transmission of COVID-19.

Thank you to all educators, families and students that will be pivoting to online learning beginning next week. Your patience, understanding and resilience are a testament to your character and to the GMPS Mavericks spirit!

Here are a few reminders when engaging in online learning:

- The school day begins at 9:00 a.m. Please log in on time and be ready for learning.
- Each class will follow their regular timetable with recess and lunch breaks being at their usual times.
- Choose a space where students can engage in the learning and if needed, where they can be monitored and supported.
- If you, as a parent/guardian, are with your child to support their online learning (i.e. perhaps younger students, support with technology etc...), please do not interrupt the lesson to speak to the teacher. If you need to communicate with your child's teacher, please send an email.

If you have any questions at any time, please email me directly at eugenia.korinis@yrdsb.ca.

Stay safe. Be well.

Eugenia Korinis

Principal
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