

March 26th, 2020



School District 19
(Revelstoke)

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am providing this update to help you and your family look ahead to the coming weeks with an understanding of what we will be doing to support our students in this unprecedented time.

When the Ministry of Education announced the suspension of all in-class instruction, they provided school districts with four guiding principles (below) to structure our work going forward.

1. Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students and families and all employees.
2. Provide services to support children of essential workers.
3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students

Our schools provide safe, healthy, and enriching spaces for our students, and much of that is possible because of your support and that of the community, the energy of our youth, and the strength of our staff. Opportunities for learning under these new conditions will be very challenging, and will require creativity, flexibility, and care for each other.

During the week of March 30th, 2020, you will be receiving information from your school principal. In the meantime, in respect of the social distancing practices, I am confirming that students and parents will not be coming to school. We will establish safe means for students to access personal items; however, our initial focus in this regard will remain on the first principle noted above.

Our staff have begun planning and preparing for continued learning opportunities for our students that can take place at home. I have confidence in our staff, and our community, that we will create new and innovative ways to support the needs of our students in the coming weeks and months while honouring our collective responsibility to act in a manner consistent with the most recent medical advice. Our teachers will be connecting with students and families as those plans and supports are created.

I can assure you that we will continue to follow the direction of the Provincial Health Officer, Interior Health, and the Ministries of Health and Education in all of our planning to ensure a healthy and safe environment in our schools and our community.

We will continue to update our website at www.sd19.bc.ca with resource links and information items.

Thank you very much for your understanding and thank you for your ongoing commitment to supporting the education and learning experiences for your children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Hooker', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mike Hooker
Superintendent of Schools