

March 30th, 2020



School District 19
(Revelstoke)

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope that this update finds you and your family healthy. Our staff began the work today of creating ways to support your children in this very different environment. We are following the four priorities set out by the Ministry of Education after the announcement of the suspension of all in-class instruction. I have provided the following notes (below) for each of those priorities:

1. Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students and families and all employees.

On March 27th controlled access and cleaning protocols were put in place at each of our schools. Currently we are restricting staff access to the buildings while they put together resources and supplies necessary to develop plans for continued learning for your children. Unfortunately, our playground structures have been closed until further notice due to the challenges of ensuring clean surfaces. While our fields are covered in snow, we are reminding everyone to follow the social distancing guidelines that will help control the spread of the virus.

Your principal will be connecting with you in the coming days to make arrangements for student's personal items and supplies currently in school lockers and desks.

2. Provide services to support children of essential workers.

Government has requested that we prioritize in-person care and learning opportunities for children whose parents/caregivers provide essential services in the community, followed by families most in need of support. We will then move onto the other areas identified as essential. Families who work in the following essential services and who anticipate being unable to work due to childcare needs are asked to contact Revelstoke Child Care Resource and Referral at revelstokeccrr@live.ca.

- *Health and Health Services*
- *Social Services*
- *Law Enforcement*
- *First Responders*
- *Emergency Response*

3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.

Our Student Care Teams are meeting this week to plan for students who require specialized supports and to work with families directly. We are also connecting with students and families who rely on access to other school services, such as the breakfast programs, in order to make them available in a modified form.

4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students

Our staff are currently developing a range of learning opportunities for students. Considerations and adaptations are planned to allow for equitable access for all students, whether technology is readily available in the home or not. Teachers will be contacting families this week to connect and gather information that will help us make those plans. We are putting together supports that do not require parents/guardians to become teachers in their homes. We are focusing on learning opportunities that will engage students and on providing teacher support directly (phone and/or other technology) on a regular basis.

A new government website has been launched to support your efforts at home with your children.
<https://www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning/>

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

Finally, I know that this is an extremely difficult time. Your patience and support is greatly appreciated. Our staff are looking forward to reconnecting with their students, your children, and supporting each of them in their continued learning journey. If there are supports, services, or information you require, please do not hesitate to email your school principal or me at mhooker@sd19.bc.ca.

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