



March 19, 2020,

The Province of Manitoba has directed the suspension of Kindergarten to Grade 12 classes from March 23 to April 10, 2020. During this time all schools and school buildings will be closed to the public as directed by the Province. The Western School Division Offices will also be closed to the public during this time although office staff will be available to answer phones and deal with electronic communication. All division staff will have access to division buildings for work purposes during this time. All employees will be paid for their regular hours, during the suspension period and following the Western School Division Calendar.

The Province has advised that schools continue to work during the suspension time – either in the buildings or remotely – to provide as much continuity as possible in the education of students by preparing materials and exploring the tools to deliver education remotely. On March 17<sup>th</sup> (COVID-19 Bulletin #17) the Premier stated that *“teachers will continue to be on the job, either in schools or at home, to create learning plans and continue teaching using the distance learning options available”*.

Western School Division has directed teachers to focus on remote learning activities that are curricular based and connected to previous learning outcomes. This is an excellent time for teachers to provide supplementary learning, online tutoring, virtual classes, or project-based learning activities, which students can do at home. Teachers may use web platforms such as Office 365, See Saw, etc. to do this. They have also been reminded that families may have either no or limited access to technology. As such, teachers are encouraged to be generous with lending families learning resources and materials if needed. Please contact your child’s teacher for more information.

In reviewing the strong direction of Manitoba Health and in an effort to support social distance as a key preventive measure for COVID -19, Western School Division is assigning as many employees as possible to work from home from March 23 to April 10, 2020. Western School Division will ensure that the operational needs of the organization are still met.

Stephen Ross  
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Western School Division

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