

March 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This has certainly been, and continues to be, a difficult and challenging time for everyone. I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and safe. Hopefully the coming days and weeks will bring positive developments, and stabilizing news, in our school community and across the world. You and your kids have certainly been on my mind over the break and will continue to be as we move forward during this challenging time.

I want to thank you in advance for your support and understanding as our teachers, support staff and administrative team work together to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the suspension of in-class instruction. I am hopeful that the re-introduction of 'school', as different as it will look, might contribute to our sense of community and normalcy in an abnormal time. I know learning outside the classroom will look very different but feel confident we can work with you to help your children continue to learn and grow.

The decision to suspend in-classroom learning was made on Tuesday, March 17, under the direction of the Provincial Health Officer. This action was necessary to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health of all British Columbians. More information about this is provided in links to attachments at the end of this letter.

I know that many of you are worried about the health and safety of your children and your family. Please know that we at Heritage Woods, and all School District 43 staff, take those concerns very seriously. The school and the School District are developing plans in this rapidly changing situation that are consistent with the Public Health Agency of Canada's community-based measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. These plans also follow the guidelines, listed below, established by the BC government to inform our decisions:

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

Although our plans for at home learning continue to be developed, I can say that each of your children will be contacted by their teachers by Friday, April 3 or sooner. To support this process and other planning, I will ask you to complete a Continuity of Learning survey that I will send to you soon.

We are focused on student and staff safety as we navigate this new and challenging situation together. Access to the school will be restricted and controlled to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to maintain a safe environment for all. In future correspondence, I will share plans for safely allowing students/parents to collect any critical personal supplies that are

currently left in the school (for example, textbooks, medications, technology devices). Until then, parents, guardians and students should not come to the school or school grounds.

I know there are likely many questions and concerns that remain, I will be in communication with you to keep you informed as we move through the initial steps of our work in providing continuity of educational services for your students.

Please stay safe and healthy. If you have any immediate concerns, as always, please feel free to email me at tclerkson@sd43.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Todd Clerkson
Principal
HWSS

Three document links are provided to give you access to relevant information.

1. School District 43 (Coquitlam) website:
<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

For translation, visit <https://translate.google.com/>, paste the information or URL to be translated into the left window, choose language and read or visit 'new' link in right window.

2. COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions about K-12 Education for Students and their Families
https://www.sd43.bc.ca/Lists/Documents/bc-ministry-of-education-questions-and-answers-continuity-of-learning-k-12-education_system.pdf
3. COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>