

April 9, 2020

Dear Sexsmith Families,

This week many staff continued to start up online classes, primarily using the Microsoft TEAMS app and prepared paper resources to send home to students. Yesterday and today staff have been safely handing out materials to families. This work will continue Tuesday April 14 for the remainder of the divisions that need to. Some teachers have chosen not to hand out material as they will support students with online resources only for now. We are also working to ensure that all students have access to a device to be able to communicate with their teacher. As well, we are ensuring that students who require added support or check ins are receiving it.

This is a massive task and these first few weeks have had some bumps in the road, but I am confident that we will settle into a manageable routine. We understand that this is a big adjustment for everyone and want families to keep a few things in mind as we all move forward with distance learning.

- Recommended minimum times focusing on schooling is five hours per week for kindergarten to grade 3 and 5-7 hours per week for grades 4-7.
- Teachers need regular two-way communication with students, please ensure your child is logging into TEAMS every day and/or that they **or you** are responding to communication on other apps that the teacher is using (Seesaw, Class Dojo). Consistent communication is imperative if distance learning is going to work.
- Some teachers may send schedules to guide home learning, please support your child to follow the schedule.
- Please check out the district site created for Continuation of Learning at this time [https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Learning/Continuity\\_of\\_Learning/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Learning/Continuity_of_Learning/Pages/default.aspx)
- Please see the attachment to this email with resources that support mental health and anxiety during this stressful time

We will continue to update families as we move through this process. Please reach out to teachers if you have specific concerns or questions. We again thank you for your understanding and patience as we adjust to our new reality. Happy Holidays to everyone who are celebrating yesterday, today, and this weekend. Let's all remember to keep caring for ourselves and our families, staying connected and remaining hopeful.

All the best,

Joel Levine

Principal