

May 20, 2020

Dear SCDSB Families,

On May 19, the Premier's Office announced that all publicly funded schools in Ontario will remain closed for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year, in response to COVID-19. As such, Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) schools and adult learning centres will not reopen on May 31, 2020. The decision to extend the school closure period for the remainder of the school year is based on advice from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health in order to protect the health and safety of students, families and staff. Please read the statement from the government here:

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/05/health-and-safety-top-priority-as-schools-remain-closed.html>.

Over the past nine weeks, our students, parents/guardians and staff have demonstrated perseverance, flexibility and creativity as we learn and adapt together during the extended school closure period. Although the school year has looked much different than what we had anticipated, there are many shining examples across the system of people coming together to help and support one another through these difficult times. Understanding it has not been easy, we want to remind you once again of the [mental health and well-being resources](#) on our website. These resources offer factual information and tips to support students, parents/guardians and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SCDSB educators will remain connected with students and families through the methods they have established over the past nine weeks. Distance learning will continue until the end of June, and your child's teacher will provide a final report card for the 2019-2020 school year. In the coming weeks, we will have more information about opportunities for students to continue learning over the summer months and the voluntary Summer Learning Plan announced by the Ministry of Education.

SCDSB staff are finalizing a plan for students and staff to gather personal belongings and learning materials from schools. These plans will be communicated on a school-by-school basis through your child's principal and/or teachers. Plans will follow strict protocols based on direction from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and parents/guardians and staff will be provided with specific directions. In addition, families will be contacted to arrange for the safe return of borrowed SCDSB technology equipment by the end of the school year.

The government is planning for the reopening of schools in Ontario; however, at this time, we do not have any further information about the 2020-2021 school year. We will continue to provide information and updates as we receive them.

[The Minister of Education has provided additional information in a letter to Ontario families.](#) Please see letter attached. For ongoing updates and information, please continue to visit the [COVID-19 page on our website](#), or follow us on social media (Twitter: [@SCDSB_Schools](#) or Facebook: www.facebook.com/SCDSB).

Sincerely,



Jodi Lloyd
Chairperson of the Board



Steve Blake
Director of Education