

April 3, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

First of all, I'd like to thank you for your patience and understanding. I know this first week back after Spring Break has been an adjustment for us all, particularly for your children with the added pressure of not seeing their friends and teachers.

Over the past week, our focus has been on reaching out to all students and families to check in with how everyone is doing, inquire about the resources families have and/or need, and determine any additional supports required for children with complex learning needs, so that we can develop a variety of ways to support your children's learning over the coming weeks and months.

If you haven't been contacted, please contact your school Principal and someone will connect with you next week to confirm that we have your accurate contact information. We would also ask that you answer your phone, even if the call is from a blocked number or a number that you don't recognize – it may be your child's teacher calling. In addition, please check the settings on your cell phone to ensure that it is not silencing unknown callers.

### **What you can expect this coming week**

The focus for the coming week is on maintaining connections with students and introducing some routines to establish home learning.

Teachers will start slow and small with one or two "do-able" activities for your children to ease them into this new way of learning. They will also communicate an initial schedule for remote learning.

We understand that most parents are not qualified teachers and we don't expect you to take on this role. In addition, we can assure you that teachers are highly responsive to students' and families' needs. They are conscious of student workload and of not adding to family stresses at this time. As a result, teachers will be reducing the content they would normally expect your children to cover and providing clear communication, supports and instructions to help children achieve success. Time on tasks and assignments will gradually increase over the coming weeks.

We are all in this together and will get more comfortable and acclimatized to this new way of learning over time. In the meantime, please go easy on yourself and your children.

### **Activities for your children**

Some of you may be looking for activities to keep your children occupied and engaged:

- For younger children in particular, many learning opportunities can be found in daily tasks: cooking, budgeting for grocery shopping and making a family schedule.
- For older students, everyday activities like taking on a gardening project can enhance scientific reasoning skills as they learn about soil conditions, optimal sun exposure and water needs of different types of vegetation. Reorganizing a room or closet can help deepen their understanding about sustainable practices as they consider what can be reused or repurposed.

If you have online access, please visit the Ministry of Education's Keep Learning website for some great everyday learning activities: <https://www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning/#sections>.

### **Essential Services Workers**

If you have children and are an Essential Services Worker as defined by the [provincial government](#) trying to make a decision between working or staying at home with your children, please email [ESW@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:ESW@deltasd.bc.ca) with your contact information and needs. Someone from the school district will be in touch as soon as possible to discuss next steps.

### **More information**

We encourage you to read the [Ministry of Education's Frequently Asked Questions on Continuity of Learning](#) as this provide answers to many of the questions you are likely to have. Also, please check your email regularly, and visit our website for updates - <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/news-events/news/information-for-parents-guardians-novel-coronavirus/>. If you have specific questions or concerns, please reach out to your school Principal.

Thank you again for your continued patience and understanding. We encourage you to stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Sheppard', written in a cursive style.

Doug Sheppard  
Superintendent of Schools