June 5, 2020

Dear parents and caregivers,

In many ways it is hard to believe that we have been doing supplemental learning from home for over two months now. Thank you for persevering as we navigate this new way of learning together. We’ve all learned a lot, and dare I say, we’ve gotten pretty good at adjusting—not that we had much of a choice. Things have been far from ideal, and we acknowledge the strain and anxiety many of you feel. As parents ourselves, we feel it too. Thank you for your cooperation and efforts to further your child’s learning as much as possible during these strange times.

We celebrated the feast of Pentecost this past Sunday, and the calendar flipped over to June on Monday—both are sure signs that the end of the school year is just around the corner. To that end, here are some important dates to note:

**Elementary schools:**
- **June 19** will be the last day for new Supplemental Learning Opportunities assignments or lessons.
- **June 22** will be the last day for students to submit assignments.
- Following our planned calendar, teachers and staff will be available until **June 26** for you to contact with questions and to provide feedback, marks, etc. to you.
- Progress reports will be sent home **June 23 – 26**.

**High schools:**
- **June 16** will be the last day for new Supplemental Learning Opportunities assignments or lessons.
- **June 19** will be the last day for students to submit assignments.
- Following our planned calendar, teachers and staff will be available until **June 26** for you to contact with questions and to provide feedback, marks, etc. to you.
- Progress reports will be sent home **June 23 – 26**.

Schools have already been in touch with parents about returning division resources and equipment and/or picking up belongings from the school. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have questions or need help, please contact your school.

Plans for the fall are very uncertain at this stage. The provincial education sector Response Planning Team (RPT), in consultation with the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the Chief Medical Health Officer, have started planning for the fall. They are looking at various scenarios for the resumption of classes for all school divisions in Saskatchewan. Possibilities range from a full return to physical classes to no return to physical classes (online or distance learning) or combinations of the two that address possible restrictions. As always, the overriding principle for all decisions will be safety and health of students and staff.
With the unknown and variable trajectory of both virus transmission and corresponding restrictions, long range planning is challenging to say the least. As a province, we appear to be progressing through the various phases of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan quite well, and that gives us hope that our school communities will be able to gather again in the fall. But we need to be ever aware of how quickly that can change if we are not vigilant to observe directives and guidelines.

Our own school division’s administration is working on contingency plans for various scenarios. Each one has its own unique operational challenges for which we need to prepare. One constant that we anticipate no matter the scenario is engagement in learning will not be optional nor supplemental, as it is currently. As we have had to demonstrate during these past months, flexibility and nimbleness will continue to be important. While all of us, ourselves included, would much prefer to have a clear path and a solid plan, we are not at that stage yet.

We will be in touch before the end of the school year with any additional detail we have from the RPT. And as information regarding the context for resuming classes in late August comes available, we will be sure to communicate that with you as well.

We’d like to hear your feedback on your experiences with supplemental learning over the past several weeks. If you can take a few minutes, please complete the following anonymous online survey by June 14, 2020: https://go.gscs.ca/113dc45.

Once again, thank you for all your prayers and patience. And remember to take care of yourself and your family.

Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth. St. Paul, pray for us.

Sincerely,

Greg Chatlain, Director of Education
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

Diane Boyko, Board of Education Chair
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools