



**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 62 (SOOKE)**  
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Friday, April 3, 2020

Dear Families:

I hope this letter finds you and your families healthy and well, getting used to our new collective reality.

While you are adjusting to the changes in your lives, we have had a very busy first week back from Spring Break. It certainly doesn't look how it normally would but I can assure you that our team is working very hard to put learning in place for your children as soon as we can. The District is working on developing a long-term strategy and sustainable model that supports all of our students and staff for the weeks ahead.

As we move forward, our District is working to ensure that any alternative learning methods are safe, accessible and achievable. We are currently examining online platforms and specific tools to ensure that those tools are secure for all users and follow best practice. While we continue to find ways to connect with our students remotely, we ask families to respect the privacy of our teachers and the integrity of their work by not recording conversations or lessons, unless they have the permission of the staff member. We are also looking at other ways we can put learning materials into the hands of students, such as paper-based learning modules, to continue to support all of our learners, including those with specific or complex needs.

District staff is developing a process for students that require additional learning supports to distribute essential devices or equipment for students to work on their individual education plans. Decisions on what devices and equipment are essential to have at home will be determined by case managers in consultation with families and specialists.

Aside from developing learning plans, our District has put together a list of resources that offer support to our learning community and beyond. In addition, we are finalizing our plans to assist with support for Essential Workers in accordance with instruction from the Ministries of Health, Education, and Children and Family Development.

We are also connecting with families who utilize our school-based food service programs. Starting next week, we will continue to provide meals for our students that were taking advantage of this program at school. We will be connecting with those families directly to notify them of their pick up zone, schedule, and the safety protocols.

We are currently planning for the safest way to return student belongings to families. Information on this will be coming to families shortly. Our first focus will to return essential items such as medication, followed by critical learning supplies and then personal belongings. At this time, we continue to ask families not to attend at our schools, unless by appointment.

We understand these are challenging times and want you to know you are not alone. We are in this together. For tips, mental health resources, and learning activities, please visit our website: [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

Finally, thank you for your patience and understanding. We encourage you to continue practicing physical distancing and staying home whenever possible. Be kind to each other and yourselves and reach out if you need help. We always want to be supporting our families and our community, and believe we do our best work when we have support from you.

Thank you,

Scott

Scott Stinson, Superintendent of Schools

