



# St. James School

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Friday March 27th, 2020

Dear SJS Community,

The Ministry of Education and the Superintendent's Office of CISKD have provided guidance as to what the expectations are regarding the resumption of learning once Spring Break ends. Schools are working now to put in place a plan for an alternate delivery of learning opportunities for students. I will present these guidelines, as well as some of our school's own local decisions, in a Q&A format below. There will be many more questions that will arise as we go through this process together and I ask for your patience as we work to get this organized and communicated to you.

Also with this letter is a link to a very helpful set of frequently asked questions released by the Ministry of Education on March 25th. You can access this document here: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/bc-ministry-of-education-questions-and-answers-continuity-of-learning-k-12-education\\_system.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/bc-ministry-of-education-questions-and-answers-continuity-of-learning-k-12-education_system.pdf)

You can expect a survey to be sent to you via email early next week that will help us gather important information for us to use in our ongoing effort to plan and serve you.

I know that these are challenging times and that you are inundated with information and opinions. It is my intention to keep you up to date with the most current and accurate information. I, and the staff of SJS, are committed to assisting you in navigating these turbulent waters.

On a personal note, I wish to thank you for your trust and your commitment to Catholic Education. It is times like these that the strength of our school community shines! We will get through this together and with God's Grace.

I also wish to thank Mr. Pfannschmidt, Ms. Clinaz, and the volunteers who worked over Spring Break to ensure a clean and disinfected facility for all of us. They will continue to work hard to ensure a safe environment for us.

## **For Essential Service Workers (health care workers and emergency responders)**

If you have unaddressed childcare needs please contact me directly.

If you have questions, please email me directly at [mrrossetti@stjamesvernon.com](mailto:mrrossetti@stjamesvernon.com)

In Christ,

*Paul Rossetti*

Principal  
St. James School

## Q & A for Parents Regarding Learning for the Remainder of the Year

### 1). ***Will schools re-open on March 30th?***

School operations will commence on Monday March 30th for staff only, not students. The vast majority of staff will be participating remotely in meetings, professional development, and other planning activities. We ask that parents who may wish to reach the office do so via an email addressed to **both** [mrrossetti@stjamesvernon.com](mailto:mrrossetti@stjamesvernon.com) and [sjschoolvern@shaw.ca](mailto:sjschoolvern@shaw.ca). Should you require access, for safety reasons, we ask that you contact the school office in advance to discuss/make arrangements as there are procedures in place to maintain the sanitized environment achieved over the Spring Break. The Ministry of Education and CISKD have stated that parents should expect learning to commence within a week or two of that date. Because in-classroom learning has been suspended in the province how schools are to deliver education will take on some new forms and approaches. Staff are currently working on getting a comprehensive plan together and we will have these details to families as soon as possible, with hopes of achieving this during the week of April 6th.

The Ministry of Education is expected to release a planning framework document for teachers on Friday March 27th, which will provide support and direction for our school's plan. Our teachers will need some time to digest this framework and put it into practice. In the meantime, our staff have already been working to anticipate the changes needed to ensure the continuity of learning for your child.

### 2). ***How will teaching and learning take place when in-class instruction has been suspended?***

Learning for your child will be delivered in a variety of ways. We recognize that the methods used will need to be age appropriate and our teachers are working to ensure this for our students.

It will take time to work this out and we ask for your patience and understanding as we work through the logistics of how this will occur. The goal is not to replace the classroom experience, but to provide the best possible learning under these circumstances. We do not want learning to become a source of stress and conflict in the home and recognize that striking the right balance will take some time. Ultimately, it will be up to parents to determine when and how much work can be accomplished each day. This is an opportunity for all of us to work together to support our students.

### 3). ***What materials and equipment will students use?***

We are currently working this out. Teachers will connect with their students/families the week of April 6th to share their plan.

### 4). ***How do we collect our child's personal items from school?***

We are currently working this out. We will communicate with students/families the week of April 6th to share the plan.

### 5). ***Will students who receive learning support at school continue to receive support at home?***

Yes, but we are currently working out how this will look. These plans will be made in consultation with the impacted families. We will update you on this process during the week of April 6th.

**6). When can I expect to be contacted by my child's teacher?**

We anticipate being able to contact students in some way by Friday, April 3rd.

**7). Will tuition be waived?**

The Ministry of Education has been clear that while in classroom learning has been suspended student learning continues. Our goal is to ensure that this takes place in as seamless a way as possible recognizing the challenges this presents for all concerned – parents, student and staff. We will continue to charge tuition to meet our financial obligations to staff and suppliers.

If your financial circumstances have changed significantly as a result of COVID 19 and you are unable to pay your tuition, please write to me and I will work with you on an appropriate plan to defer your payments in whole or part. We are here to help. We do not want anyone to withdraw from the school should they be unable to pay tuition.

If you need to make such a request, please email me at [mrrossetti@stjamesvernon.com](mailto:mrrossetti@stjamesvernon.com) as soon as possible to avoid NSF charges.

**8). Will Hot Lunch Fees be waived?**

Yes, if you have prepaid for Hot Lunch we will make sure you are either reimbursed or that your fees are applied to future Wednesday Take Home Suppers. I will be working with JP to see how we can continue to support our families during this time. I hope to have an update for you during the week of April 6th.

**9). Will this impact First Communion and Confirmation dates?**

Students in Grades Two and Seven will continue preparation for receiving the Sacraments. Formal celebrations are likely postponed until further notice from the Bishop's office. We will communicate with Father Peter and Bishop Joseph to determine next steps.