



## NOTRE DAME SCHOOL

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April 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the first day back to school since Spring Break. Many things have happened in our province, our country and globally since we were in school. Due to the pandemic, we are approaching school in a very different way. We may be in school, but we are not at school. The office hours continue to be from 9 am - 12 noon for phone calls. Teachers will be available on-line or by phone from 9 am - 2:45 pm.

In the following days, we ask for your patience, continued support and your feedback. We are all new at this. We will be looking at the school day in a very different way. Last term, the school day was a full 5 hours from the time you dropped your child off at the door to the time you picked them up at 2:45 pm. We expect that to be a bit different when at home. During a normal school day, the students are busy working, chatting, transitioning, going out for recess, going to PHE class, going to the library, during snack, and having lunch. During a regular school day, a child does not spend a full 5 hours sitting at their desks working away at their school work. During any given lesson in a normal school day, conversations take place, questions are answered, and clarifications are given. This is all within the realm of a classroom with more than one or two children in attendance. When doing work in a secluded area, the work gets done much quicker as there are no distractions to pull the attention away from the child. We do not expect them to work for 5 hours on line or on paperwork. The day at home will look very different from a day in a classroom setting as they continue with their learning.

The teachers and support staff have been working hard on finding ways in which to deliver their daily lessons. The first week back will be a time to explore the options provided, look at possible lessons, and to try out the new avenues they have carefully researched. We ask that during this first week, we hear from you. Your constructive feedback will be an important part of this new process. We need to know what is working, what is not working, what you may need assistance with and what your child may need. Providing us with this feedback will be invaluable. We ask that your words be kind, delivered in trust and understanding.

The teachers and support staff will continue working throughout the day, meeting as teams and preparing for the following week. The easiest way to connect with them for questions is through email, unless otherwise specified by the classroom teacher. We are looking into Zoom, an online video conferencing tool, which we hope to connect with you and your child at some point in time in the very near future. This will also be an excellent time to pose questions, get assistance and chat about how things are going in this new age of education. I trust that each teacher will be in touch with you at some point during the week.

Within the next day or two, we will be sending out another letter regarding the pick up of your child's belongings, along with a schedule and details as to how that will all look. We are also currently looking at the surveys and the data we have gathered. We will be devising a system of how to pick things up at the school in regards to printed worksheets that some of you have requested. However, the completed work will be uploaded onto Fresh Grade or a photo will be emailed to the teachers to view. We do this out of respect and caution to prevent the spread of the COVID virus. We all want to remain safe and healthy and follow the Health Minister's guidelines during this unprecedented time.

We continue to pray for the end of this pandemic so that life can return to "normal" for the world, our province and our community. Keep us in your prayers as we continue to learn and work in this new environment to provide a Continuation of Learning for you and your child.

Thank you

God bless you all!  
Keep safe and stay healthy!

Terri Haynal