

October 23, 2020

Dear parents and legal guardians:

As a follow-up to the information sent yesterday, we are able to provide you with more information about education during a Restricted Level (Orange).

We understand that you have questions and that you need clarification, mainly on what remote learning will look like, which is perfectly normal.

What you need to know:

- Parents of Kindergarten to Grade 8 students have the option to continue in-class learning or to opt for remote learning.
- Remote learning is only available during the Restricted Level (Orange).
- We do not know the duration of the Restricted Level (Orange).
- We plan to start remote learning on November 2nd. Assignments will be sent by your child's teacher for the week of October 26-30.
- We cannot guarantee that your child will be placed with the same teacher they currently have. The preference would be first, the current teacher and second, a teacher from the same school or division.
- The parent should acknowledge the commitment that this service requires that is outlined in this letter.
- It is important to consider the language dynamics of the child's environment. In our minority community, a francophone environment conducive to language development is not always possible at home.

Although Manitoba Education asks school divisions to do their best to ensure a physical distancing of two metres, despite our efforts (removal of furniture, books, materials, use of alternative spaces except the gym), we are still unable to guarantee two metres of physical distancing due to lack of space. We have contacted Manitoba Education and they have given us approval to continue with the current system, which is one metre of physical distancing and cohorts.

For our students in Grades 9 to 12, Manitoba Education tells us that, for the moment, it is status quo. Should the Restricted Level (Orange) be further extended, we may need to move to a blended learning model. Unfortunately, this solution would still not free up enough space to ensure that all of our K-8 students can be at a distance of two metres.

Student Programming

- Students will be required to participate daily in learning and assessments based on minimum standards as follows:
 - The designated teacher will coordinate real-time online instruction for all students in their class. Registered students will be required to complete the following real-time learning periods (synchronous: Microsoft Teams or equivalent).
- Grades 1-4: Five to six hours of real-time instruction per week
- Grades 5-8: Seven to eight hours of real-time instruction per week
- Grades 9-12: Two hours of real-time instruction, per course per week
- The DSFM will provide technology support as required (case by case).

Independent Work

Student assignments will be based on the learning outcomes of the Manitoba curriculum. Assignments will be differentiated to meet learning needs of students. As for independent work, interdisciplinary projects will be carried out by the students themselves. Some support from parents/guardians may be required. Students will be required to complete the following minimum learning periods (independent work, assignments with parent support):

- Grades 1-4: two and a half hours per day
- Grades 5-8: three hours per day
- Grades 9-12: one hour per course per day

Kindergarten

Students will have one to two hours of play-based learning each day. Kindergarten teachers will connect with the student, along with parents/guardians, a minimum of once per week to facilitate connection and to provide support and play-based learning ideas.

Parents

Participation will be recorded. Students may need to come to school (or elsewhere) for assessments and discussions with teachers and school administrators, as required.

Parents and caregivers will need to participate and provide support, which will vary depending on the student's age and ability to work independently. Under this approach, the parent or guardian will have to monitor the child's commitment and ensure that the work required is done properly.

The majority of decisions we have to make are directly related to the choice of parents to either opt for in-class learning or remote learning, which complicates clear answers for the following:

- Transportation
- Child care
- Reassignment of teachers for in-class learning or remote learning
- Reallocation of preparation time for teachers
- Provision of special education services
- Reassignment of educational assistants
- Reassignment of support staff
- Reassignment of classrooms
- Removal of desks and excess furniture
- Creation of new cohorts
- Changes to classroom lists in our systems

As you can see, a number of things come into play, making it difficult for us to offer clear answers to some of your questions. That said, we plan to follow Manitoba Education's expectations for remote learning:

https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/support/remote_learn_standards.html

Respectfully,



Alain Laberge
Superintendent

AL/am