



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK  
CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

# Update for Families – April 9, 2020

Below you will find important items for families to be aware of while we move forward together on our distance education journey. We understand that there are many unanswered questions and we are doing our best to gather information and share it as soon as we can. Please expect continued updates as we move through the month of April.

**Moving forward with the understanding that schools are closed to students until May 4, 2020:**

## What will distance education look like for us?

- There is no expectation that students need to be online during a specific hour(s) of the day - they can be engaged in learning at any point in the day.
- Learning activities will be assigned with grade-level and accommodations in mind.
- Most students will be able to complete their work with minimal adult support.
- If families have concerns, we ask that they contact their child's teacher(s).

## How much work is my child expected to do?

The Ministry of Education has provided guidance on activities and learning expectation. Our expectation, and the Ministry's expectation, is that students will do their best to complete all assigned work during the distance learning process. Students and families should connect with their teachers if they have questions about work or marks (assessments). **Here is the overview:**

### Elementary

#### Grades K-3

- Students will learn skills and practice. The focus will be literacy and numeracy.
- Approximately 5 hours of work each week.
- 1-2 projects and/or activities each week.

#### Grades 4-6

- Students will learn skills and practice. The focus will be literacy, numeracy, science and social studies.
- Approximately 5 hours of work each week.
- 1-2 projects and/or activities each week.

#### Grades 7-8

- Students will learn skills and practice. The focus will be literacy, numeracy, science, history and geography.
- Approximately 10 hours of work each week.
- 1-2 project-based activities a week.
- Check in times for support/help are shared.

### Secondary

#### Grades 9-12

- Students will focus on achieving the credit by completing the distance education version of the course.

- Approximately 3 hours of work each week per course.
- 1 project-based or summative task assignment each week per course
- Check in times for support/help are shared.

## How will my child's works be marked (assessed) and will we receive a report card?

### Elementary

- Teachers will collect information about student learning during distance education and will provide feedback to families.
- Teachers will use student work up to March 13, 2020 to formulate a grade for a final report card that will be issued in June. Kindergarten families will receive a Kindergarten of Communication of Learning.
- Work and marks (assessments) completed during distance learning from now until June may be used to improve final marks.

### Secondary

- Teachers will collect information about student learning during distance education and will provide feedback to families.
- Final marks will be reported in June 2020, and will be based on work completed before March 13, 2020, and after April 6, 2020. Teachers will continue to assign learning tasks, projects and culminating activities and will provide feedback to students, including marks. The intention is not to lower grades compared to what the grades were on March 13.

## Additional Information

### Grade 12 and Graduating Students

- College/University application interim marks for grade 12 graduating students and fifth year students will be formulated on work up to April 17, 2020 so they can be reported to the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) and the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS).
- Marks will reflect work submitted on or before March 13, 2020, unless formative assessments (missed, late and/or additional assignments) completed prior to April 17, 2020, demonstrate further achievement of expectations in which case, a student's mark will be increased accordingly.
- The Ministry of Education has made it clear that **grade 12 students will not have their graduation or progression impacted** by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Any student who is on track to graduate will be supported to graduate.
- The graduation requirement to complete **40 hours of community involvement** is suspended for this school year.

### Awards, Graduations and Ceremonies

At this time, it is too soon to determine what important events like Grade 8 and High School graduations, academic awards, and celebration banquets will look like. We are waiting to see how the year progresses before decisions are made and more information is shared.

We hope this information has been helpful to you and your family. As we navigate these uncertain times, please know we are holding you in our prayers, and look forward to the day when we will welcome your child back to school again.

Easter blessings to you and your family.

Mike McDonald, Director of Education