



Evergreen School Division

Box 1200 • Gimli, Manitoba • R0C 1B0 • Ph. (204) 642-6260 • Fax (204) 642-7273 • www.esd.ca

December 3, 2020

Dear Evergreen Families,

Manitoba Education announced yesterday that the winter break will be followed by two weeks (January 4-15th) of mandatory remote learning (learning from home) for students in Grades 7 to 12. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will continue to have in school learning, with support provided to those families who choose learning from home. This decision was made as part of the province's efforts to prevent the spread of Covid19.

Manitoba Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen stated that "we believe...the best place for students to learn is in the classroom where it is safe to do so." He explained this preventative measure for Grades 7 to 12 is because "older students tend to have more contacts, and so have a higher likelihood of transmitting the coronavirus that causes COVID-19". In addition, it was noted that students at these grades are generally more successful with online learning.

Please note the following regarding the Jan 4th -15th time frame

- **There will be no school on Monday, January 4, 2021.** This day is set aside for staff planning and collaboration.

Remote Learning for Grade 7-12 students

- **Devices** (computer or iPad), and access to high speed internet will be required for remote learning. A printer would additionally be helpful. Schools will be in touch with you regarding access to a device. A limited number of devices are available to be assigned for students who need them.
- **Remote Learning Rehearsal.** Schools will have the option to schedule a trial run of remote learning before the winter break. At the discretion of the principal, a date will be set for students to practice learning from home, giving us an opportunity to work out any technology related issues before the break.
- **High School Students:** During the learning at home block, they will follow their regular timetable, logging in at the beginning of each period for attendance, instruction and interaction. This will be followed by time for independent learning.



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- **Grades 7 and 8 Students:** During the learning at home block, students will be required to log-in at assigned times for whole class teaching and learning and also for small group or individual times. When not on-line, students will have independent learning tasks to complete.

Kindergarten to Grade 6 students:

- In class learning will continue.
- Alternatively, parent(s)/ caregiver(s) may choose learning from home, which will require adult support. There will be a mix of assigned independent tasks, paper packages and connection to the teacher.
- Early next week, schools will send home a letter requesting parents indicate their intention to keep children at home or if they plan to send their children to school.

We continue to respond to emerging direction from Manitoba Education and public health. Ongoing changes to our practices are challenging, and we appreciate the continued support of parents and the community.

Our dedicated staff has responded to the ongoing needs of the pandemic with creativity, fortitude and professionalism. Please consider reaching out to the staff at your child(s) school to express your appreciation for the extra efforts they have made to ensure your child's classroom is a safe and enjoyable learning environment.

If you have any questions, please contact us for additional information.

Sincerely,

Roza Gray
Superintendent & CEO
Evergreen School Division