

April 4th, 2020

Email to parents from NMS Administration regarding Continued Learning

Parents/Guardians,

- Barring any type of drastic change in the Province's current state of emergency, schools in New Brunswick will not be reopening their doors between now and June. With this recent News of school closures for the remainder of the school year, you and your child have undoubtedly been going through a range of emotions. Sadness due to not seeing their friends, teachers, and friendly staff. Uncertainty with not knowing what the future will look like as we move into the final months of the 2019-2020 school year. And possibly anxiety over thoughts of "when will this unprecedented state of health and safety in our society be over?" These emotions are normal and please know that they are felt mutually on the part of your child's educators and school team.
- Beginning early next week, your child's teacher will be reaching out to you to get more detail on your family's circumstances (health/safety, access to technology, time available to support your child with academics, etc.). This info will help the teacher in planning appropriate and realistic learning options for your child. Communication will be continuing between teacher and parent on a weekly basis. As you can imagine, this will not be an easy task given the challenges associated with remote learning. Our teachers are going to be delving into a new form of teaching and with that will certainly come with some hiccups. One of the things our admin team have been applauding our amazing teachers for has been their patience as we continue to move into these uncertain times. I ask that our families express the same level of patience. I can assure you that your child's teacher is going to do everything they can to make the most out of an unfortunate situation while respecting your own unique set of family circumstances.
- Teachers, P.E and Music Specialists, Resource teachers, Guidance, and Administrators of NMS have met together via virtual online meetings and will continue to do so. Through these collaborative efforts, I am hopeful that your child's teacher will be equipped to provide you with learning options that will engage and inspire your child to continue to set goals and strive for academic improvement.
- You have likely also received some information on how parents/guardians can communicate with schools. There are 3 formal methods. You can contact the district phone line. You can leave a voicemail on our school phone number (453-5421). You can also fill out a referral form which is linked to our school website at the top of the page (<https://secure1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/NasisMemorial/Pages/default.aspx>) . Of course, you may still contact your child's teacher if you have questions/concerns.
- You may be wondering: "What will this continued learning format look like?" Our government-mandated parameters (see attachment) call for approximately 1 hour of 'learning time' every day of the week. At the K-2 level, this will include an emphasis on literacy and numeracy. In

grades 3-5, this hour will also include time devoted to science content. At all K-5 grades, a minimum of 30 minutes of reading, a minimum of 30 minutes of Physical Activity as well as some cross-curricular specialty subjects will also be encouraged. As teachers continue to plan how they will rollout this type of learning model, you will be receiving more details on all of these things.

- I can assure you that your child will not be disadvantaged for not completing work. You have likely noticed that I am using the terms “options for learning”. Our teachers are not ensuring that learning is taking place. Rather, they are doing their best to support and encourage learning. With that in mind, there will not be any assessments or ‘marks’ associated with any type of produced work. Instead, your teacher will be attempting to provide helpful feedback to help guide your child toward proficiency and continue to challenge them in a meaningful way.
- Your role as parent/guardian is critical and please do not be mistaken, health and safety is still our #1 priority. Your teachers do not expect you to be experts of literacy, numeracy, health/P.E experts, music specialists, or try to portray the role of teacher in any way. What we do ask is that you maintain communication with your child’s teacher (email, phone, or another sharing device that is acceptable), do your best to assist your child with academic tasks that are suggested, and attempt to make the learning fun for your child by supporting and encouraging them as best as you can.
- There is still much more information to come as we move into the final months of the school year. Topics such as grade 5 ceremonies, transitions to middle school, refunds of hot lunch and milk orders, yearbooks, student retention, etc. Your NMS team is working tirelessly to get answers to these topics and I can promise you that information will continue to be shared as we receive it from our District and Department.
- Finally, I ask that you keep in mind that your child’s teacher may also be going through very stressful and challenging times amid this pandemic. They will be doing their best to accommodate you and your child while also balancing the needs of their own loved ones (children, parents, grandparents, significant others, etc.). COVID-19 has without a doubt affected us all. I ask that you keep this in mind and demonstrate understanding and flexibility as we continue to move forward through these uncharted waters together.

Alex Yaychuk – Acting Principal, Nashwaaksis Memorial Elementary

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