



Gananoque Intermediate & Secondary School

175 William Street South, Gananoque, Ontario K7G 1S8

Phone: 613-382-4741 Fax: 855-376-4214

Trevor Holme, B.Sc., B.Ed. OCT Principal (acting)

Lesley Mackellar, B.Sc., B.Ed., OCT Vice Principal



April 16, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you know, the coronavirus/COVID 19 pandemic has led the provincial Ministry of Education to announce that the school closure period will be extended beyond May, 4, 2020.

Since our return from the March 2020 Spring Break our school and school board has been implementing a “Learn At-Home” strategy for our students, in accordance with the direction provided by the Ministry of Education. We are working to achieve three goals for all schools in the Upper Canada District School Board:

- **Goal 1:** Getting each and every one of our secondary students across the finish line so that they can complete their semester;
- **Goal 2:** Keeping elementary students engaged in their learning by assisting families with making connections to board-level and provincial resources, and;
- **Goal 3:** Having all schools connect with each of our students, so to confirm that they know that we are here for them.

Next steps: Over the course of the past few weeks teachers have been reaching out to students and families to connect and provide opportunities for continued learning at home. Our staff understand that families are facing many challenges right now and want to provide flexible options for these learning experiences. Some things we continue to work on include:

- Confirming the availability of digital resources for those who need access;
- Providing non-digital resources for students who cannot connect with the internet;
- Reaching out on a regular basis to families and children to check-in and offer our support.

Please continue to reach out to your teacher, to me or to the school Board directly to share information about how we can support you best moving forward.

Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting During School Closure:

The Ontario Ministry of Education has provided clarity regarding the assessment, evaluation and final report card for each student during this time of closure.



Gananoque Intermediate & Secondary School

175 William Street South, Gananoque, Ontario K7G 1S8

Phone: 613-382-4741 Fax: 855-376-4214

Trevor Holme, B.Sc., B.Ed. OCT Principal (acting)

Lesley Mackellar, B.Sc., B.Ed., OCT Vice Principal



- Mid-term report cards will not be issued for any student.
- Teachers will consider the learning that happened prior to closure of schools on March 13, 2020 when determining a student’s achievement in a subject for the final report card.
- Teachers will remain in contact with students and provide feedback to them on learning tasks that they are completing at home during the time of closure.
- Teachers can consider this evidence of student learning gathered during the time of closure when completing final report cards. Students who are unable to participate in distance learning will not be penalized in any way. Work completed at a distance can only be used to reflect student improvement.
- We encourage students engage in continued learning at home to whatever extent possible so that our students can maintain and improve upon current skills and competencies and be prepare for future learning.

The Ministry of Education has provided the following guidance regarding the amount of time per week elementary students should engage in learning activities:

7 & 8
10 hours/week
Literacy/Math/Science/ Social Studies

Teachers will assign learning tasks at the beginning of each week, providing students and families with the flexibility to schedule time for schoolwork in the manner that works best for them in consideration of the many needs and priorities in individual households.

Please reach out to your child’s teacher or to me about any questions that you have as your child settles into learning at home and as you try to understand how you can support and guide this experience. All of us are living with significant change as a result of the pandemic and I know that we will find comfort and success if we all work together in whatever ways we can.

Sincerely,

Principal (acting)

CC:

Area Superintendent of Schools;
Chair, School Council.