



St. Elias Community School

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April 10, 2020

Dear St. Elias Parents / Families:

We hope this letter finds you well. We miss your children and recognize the huge impact a school closure has on everyone. The announcement regarding the suspension of face to face classroom learning was sad news for all staff. This is an uncertain time for everyone, but we believe that it can become a time of resilience by prioritizing the precious connections and relationships we have with our students and families. St. Elias Staff will be in close communication with you and your children/youth as we move in to remote learning opportunities. If you have any questions, please reach out to any school staff; we are a family community and we miss you.

This letter is the first in a series that will outline St. Elias Community School's Learning Continuity Plan during the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. We trust it will provide information and resources to support our families in this unique time of remote learning.

SECS Staff and I acknowledge that during this time, our school families have a lot to manage. Supporting your child/youth's learning at home is new and very different. We understand that this can be a challenging time for our students. We know they miss their peers and teachers, the social aspects that come with school learning and learning in general. Some of our children/youth are looking forward to getting back to 'school learning' while others might be experiencing anxiety or fear during this time of unknown. We also recognize that our parents are juggling a great deal all at once - work commitments, taking care of family needs, the day to day life challenges and the worry of how to best support their children/youth's learning from home. Please know that the staff of St. Elias Community School is here to support and work with you during the next 8 weeks. Our hope is that our school families will take the time to look after each other first and foremost and that together we will support you in your efforts to support learning at home.

Since returning from Spring Break, we have been preparing to deliver remote learning through a variety of ways, knowing that our families will need a variety of options. Staff have been identifying what learning outcomes have been covered to date, what learning outcomes remain and of those, identifying the most essential learning outcomes to be covered over the next 8 weeks. Our teachers have also been reaching out to all parents by phone and emails.

Information gathered from these interactions with parents have helped staff better plan for:

- the delivery methods of the continuing of learning for each student and how it will best be delivered for each of our families

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- the learning outcomes that have been prioritized as essential learning in subject areas with a strong focus around literacy, numeracy and personal and social core competencies
- best assessment strategies & ways for providing feedback around learning standards to be provided.

Following the health and safety guidelines set out by the Chief Medical Officer of Yukon, students and families are not permitted in the school while the order for school closures is in effect. We will be communicating with families with details and protocols about picking up learning packages to support at-home learning and how and when to pick-up student belongings from classrooms, desks and lockers. Thank you for your patience in this area.

Starting April 16th your child's classroom /subject teacher will e-mail or call you with a general overview of their plan to support learning at home, weekly learning routines, and how families can support their children. Our teachers will work with you in this process, supporting as best as possible during this remote learning. We will endeavor to meet each of our families where they are at when setting schedules and expectations to minimize unnecessary stress and foster success for our learners.

For our K4 families: Students and families will receive learning activities that can be supported at home and that engage children in learning through play, inquiry, and hands-on experiences, while supporting gross and fine motor development, oral language, and social skills. Our K4 teacher will assign about three hours of this type of "work" to be done by each student per week and will work with their students and families/guardians to support the delivery of these resources.

For our Kindergarten-Grade 6 students and families: Our teachers will provide you with learning activities that can be supported at home. There will be approximately 5 hours weekly total of learning activities with a focus on literacy, numeracy and the integration of core subjects as needed (e.g., science, social studies, etc.). For Kg – Grade 3 students are encouraged to continue learning through play with their families as much as possible.

For our Grade 7-9 students and families: Our teachers will provide you with learning activities that can be supported at home. There will be approximately 10 hours weekly total of learning activities with focus on literacy, numeracy and the integration of core subjects such as science and social studies as needed - approximately 2.5 – 3 hours per course.

For our Grades 10 through 12 students and families: Subject teachers will assign approximately three hours of work per course to be done by each student per week. Teachers will support learning and work closely with families on the delivery of these materials. All our grade 12 students have completed the graduation numeracy assessment so that is great!

Many of our SECS families have indicated that receiving learning resource packages each week best suits their needs. Some have indicated that sharing of resources through emails is possible. SECS classroom/ subject teachers may host Zoom and / or Teams 365 meetings to facilitate

small group of class wide discussions or provide additional supports if this is helpful and possible for families. Telephone calls, emails and / or pre-recorded videos are other methods of possible supports to students and families. Some of our teachers will be emailing assignments as well as posting assignments and instructions on to our school webpage <http://sec.yukonschools.ca/> Please check here for more information after April 15th. Our teachers are committed to working closely with each student and family to maintain the best avenue for delivering learning resources on an individual basis. Teachers will be in communication on a weekly basis with each family and as needed throughout the week.

Staff and Administration will be working with our families to help identify additional resources that may be needed to support learning at home. If parents require access to loaned resources, materials or technology to support learning needs at home, please contact your classroom teacher, Eleanor Charlton our Learning Assistance teacher (Eleanor.Charlton@yesnet.yk.ca) or myself at the school (634-2231).

St. Elias School has staff that are available to support you and your children in completing weekly learning activities by phone or virtually if needed. We are developing some structures to help students needing additional support, especially those who were use to being supported by our Educational Assistants. We are developing plans and structures to make additional help available to students. Please keep in mind this may look and feel very different from what students are used to receiving in the school.

All students and families received Informal Progress Reports just before Spring Break. These Progress Reports were part of our school's Communicating and Sharing of Student Learning plan. These reports provided parents and students assessment feedback regarding their learning and next steps up to and including early March. As we move forward, teachers will be working closely with you and your student, gathering information and evidence of student learning through a variety of means. It may include the return of completed work or a learning activity, submitting photos that capture a creation or project completed at home, conversations with students about their thinking and learning around a specific topic. St. Elias Community School was set to hold our Student Led Conferences in mid-April. These conferences have been cancelled, however please know you can reach out to your child/youth's teacher at any point during the remainder of the school year to set up a time to speak about your child's learning and progress. Teachers will also be in regular contact with you and your child/youth regarding ongoing assessment of learning and feedback. We will be sending year-end summative report cards on June 5, 2020.

Parents can reach all SECS staff by emailing them at firstname.lastname@yesnet.yk.ca. Ms. Shawn Allen, Mr. Eleniak and I are working from the school and can be reached by calling 634-2231. Our school counsellor, Ms. Buck, can be reached by email at Rosemary.Buck@yesnet.yk.ca or calling the school and leaving a message.

There are still many unknowns with regard to how the next days and weeks will go. Our commitment to keeping you as informed as possible remains. Please don't hesitate to contact us with your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,



Maggie Mann and the entire St. Elias Staff