

November 24, 2020

Dear GYPSD Families;

During a province-wide press conference outlining new mandates to address the rise of COVID-19 cases in Alberta this evening, Premier Kenney announced changes to K-12 schools for the next six weeks. In a follow up meeting with the Minister of Education, Adriana LeGrange clarified that the return to in-class learning is anticipated for January 11, 2021.

Mandatory restriction – Province wide – Starting November 30 for Grades 7-12 students:

- Move to at-home learning November 30, 2020 to January 8, 2021 (4 weeks in total) except during winter break (December 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021)
- Resume in-person classes anticipated for January 11, 2021
- Diploma exams are optional for rest of the school year. Students and their families can choose whether to write an exam or receive an exemption for the April, June and August 2021 exams

Grades K-6 students (including Early Childhood Services):

- Continue in-person learning to December 18, 2020
- Move to at-home learning December 18, 2020 to January 8, 2021 (1 week in total) except during winter break (December 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021)
- Resume in-person classes anticipated for January 11, 2021

As you know, GYPSD staff and community members have done a tremendous job minimizing the risk of transmission in our schools. As we once again pivot and adjust to these new provincial mandates to address the COVID-19 pandemic over the next few days and weeks leading up to Christmas break, we ask for your patience and support. During the announcement, no changes were made to the current mask mandate for schools.

Your Principals and teachers will be following up with you to support the transition of **Grade 7 – 12 students to the at-home platform for next Monday** if you have children in this context.

Students in **K-Grades 6** will be learning at home for only one week following Christmas break. If you have students in K-Grades 6, please prepare for that one week for at-home learning in the New Year, and we encourage you to review the Division's website for **Learning@Home** supports. Your principals will be following up with you over the next few weeks.

If you have children in **Grades 7 – 12**, please take the next few days to review the Division's website to see supports for **Learning@Home**, to set up a quiet learning space with a computer/laptop, including a working camera and microphone, and familiarize yourself with the Google Classroom platform. Please follow up with your principal/teachers if you require paper packages.

We will be doing everything we can to support our students in their learning during this time. Premier Kenney indicated in his announcement that our collective response to the new rules and mandates over the upcoming weeks are crucial. Again, we want to thank you for your partnership in and support of your child's learning.

Please reach out to your school principals if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brenda Rosadiuk

Brenda Rosadiuk
Board Chair

Carolyn Lewis

Carolyn Lewis, MAEd
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Board of Trustees

