

Message from the Director of Education

Dear SCDSB Families,

We thank you for your patience and support as we continue to adjust to this period of unprecedented change and uncertainty. We acknowledge the challenges presented to our educators and families at this time. We know, for example, the capacity to move to a distance learning environment will present challenges but we are confident that with time and an amazing staff at SCDSB that we will overcome these. Today we began phase 2 of distance learning and are focused on reconnecting with students and ensuring that all have the tools that they require to move forward and be successful. While we are doing our best to resume teaching and learning, we know that our solutions will not be perfect and that we need to be flexible and patient with ourselves and with each other.

Support for students and families

We are pleased to share the following website

<https://sites.google.com/sudburycdsb.ca/studentresources/home> as a supplementary resource for our families and students going through the journey of distance learning. On the main page there are links for the three main platforms we are using and videos to help you log into these platforms. We know there will be some issues and we are here to help. Start by finding out which platform the teacher is using, and they will help you log in. We have also set up an email that will help connect you with someone from your school. The email is studenthelp@sudburycatholicschools.ca. The link to this website is located on our Board website main page at www.sudburycatholicschools.ca

Deployment of Technology

Beginning this week, we will be deploying technology to those families in greatest need of devices. As you can imagine this is a big endeavour so this may take the better part of the couple of weeks.

Hours of Recommended Student Work

Hours of work as outlined by the Ministry of Education, including instruction, online meetings, and independent work.

- Kindergarten to Grade 6: minimum 5 hours per week
- Grade 7-8: minimum 10 hours per week
- Grade 9-12: minimum 3 hours per course per week

Assessment and Evaluation

- a) **Elementary Students (K-8):**

Teachers will use assessment for learning (formative assessment) to gather evidence of how students are progressing and provide feedback to their students to support their continuous and ongoing learning.

In determining final grades and marks for the final report card, teachers will use the evaluation information gathered before March 13th. Reporting on Learning Skills and Work Habits should also reflect information gathered prior to March 13th. Teachers may also include comments on the final report card if they feel that doing so would support the student's progress.

The Kindergarten Communication of Learning will be based on teachers' observations of key learning and growth in learning prior to March 13th. Teachers may also choose to include comments on growth in learning demonstrated during the school closure period.

Final report cards will be provided for all elementary students.

b) Secondary Students (9-12):

All secondary students will receive final report card marks. Teachers will assign learning tasks, projects and culminating activities and will provide students with feedback on their learning. Teachers will base the final mark on work completed up to March 13th, as well as work done through distance learning however they can adjust the weighting of assigned tasks in the determination of the final mark. Reporting on Learning Skills and Work Habits will reflect information gathered prior to March 13th. Teachers may also include comments on the final report card.

Civics and Citizenship and Career Studies Half-Credit Courses

For students enrolled in Civics and Citizenship and Career Studies half-credit courses in the second semester, their final mark for the half-credit course underway at the time of school closures will be based on work completed as of March 13th. Teachers can provide student opportunities to complete work not yet submitted as part of their final mark.

On Monday April 6th, students can begin work on the other half-credit course.

Graduating students

Mid-term marks will be calculated for graduating students for the college and university admission process. Teachers will use evidence of learning that reflects work completed prior to the school closure. They may also provide opportunities for students to submit a missed and/or additional assignment to demonstrate their learning within the timelines prescribed by the teacher. Teachers can adjust the weighting of assigned tasks in their determination of a mark, if needed. Marks should represent the most accurate reflection of student work, based on what is reasonable and in the best interest of students during this time. Marks will be submitted between April 23 and May 1st.

Volunteer hours

The graduation requirement to complete 40 hours of community involvement is suspended for this school year for graduating students.

As always, students and families should connect with their educators if they have questions about assessment and evaluation.

I thank you once again for your support and your patience as we navigate this new way of teaching and learning. Please feel free to reach out to our staff if you have any questions and/or concerns. Please use our email studenthelp@sudburycatholicschools.ca or contact your school directly (email and phone messages are being checked regularly during business hours).

Wishing you the best. Stay safe,

Joanne Bénard
Director of Education