

Guiding Principles for Educational Continuance in the Louis Riel School Division – Parents

Louis Riel School Division (LRS) classroom teachers will provide a selection of learning opportunities for students and parents/guardians during the suspension of classes. Learning opportunities will focus on the big ideas of the [Manitoba Curriculum](#) and will reinforce inquiry learning using a project-based approach. Our Teaching and Learning portal is being updated to provide teachers a collection of resources that can serve as a planning aid. These resources are currently under development and will be updated on an ongoing basis. In addition, a space has been created within Microsoft Teams for teachers to collaborate and share resources. We encourage classroom teachers to determine which resources are most appropriate for their students.

Schools will decide how to share learning materials in digital form, print or a combination of both.

By Friday, March 20, teachers will have communicated with students and parents an overview of their educational continuance plans and their general expectations for the weeks of March 23 and April 6.

LRS has several existing learning platforms that will support the communication and interaction between teachers and students. These include:

- Teacher MySite – Parent Portal
- Office 365 – Which includes Class OneNote
- Microsoft Teams for Education

Students in Grades 3 to 12 have access to Office 365 and their Class MySite from home on any device. Students who have forgotten their username or password will be directed to contact their classroom teacher who can provide assistance by accessing the Account Management feature of the Tech Request System.

Teachers may choose other technologies such as SeeSaw. However, LRS will not be providing support for applications other than the ones listed above. If teachers choose to use alternate applications, the expectation is that the teacher and students were already familiar with and using the software.

LRS has opened its Wi-Fi network in schools and the board office for our families to access. We are doing this because we know that we have a small number of families that have limited access to the Internet and limited data plans on their mobile devices. A member of the family can use the school's Wi-Fi to access digital information. Please contact the office in advance, keeping in mind that access is only available when the school is open.

- Wireless network – lrsdpublic
- Password – publicaccess

The intent is to provide equitable access to shared resources for students and families that respect families' unique circumstances. We recognize that individual families will determine the extent to which they engage with the educational continuance opportunities offered. Our focus will continue to be on

teaching and learning and not on task completion. During the suspension of classes, all student work will focus on:

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- **Practice:** Reinforcing concepts and understandings previously taught.
- **Preparation:** Planning for future units of study through the frontloading of topics and themes.
- **Extension:** Building on the concepts of inquiry: fostering curiosity
 - developing critical thinking
 - encouraging independent thinking
 - supporting reasoning skills

Recognizing the diverse range of strengths, needs and interests of our students, work provided to students will reflect the principles of equity and inclusion.

- Students will be provided options in all subject areas.
- Students will choose learning opportunities that they find relevant, interesting and engaging.
- Learning opportunities will be open-ended and accessible from different entry points.
- Evidence or products of learning will not be collected for evaluative purposes on the report card. Learning experiences will be designed to support student growth.
- Teachers will acknowledge the learning and provide feedback to students.
- Given the challenges related to remote learning do not allow for the many situations that will exist for families and teachers, the most meaningful feedback about completed work will occur upon students' return to school.

To ensure students in LRSD have access to library resources to take home with them during the suspension of classes, library circulation will expand to allow students to take home a collection of four to five library books. Where library collections permit and the demand from the community exists, school libraries can offer additional books to those students and families who may want to take more resources home.

Library staff will encourage equitable access so that popular titles and formats are shared among students and grade levels. If some resources are too cumbersome for children to carry home on their own (such as dictionaries, atlases, reference volumes or other oversized books), or when students are not in attendance at school (before or during the suspension of classes depending on staff availability), families can arrange with library staff via email or phone call to pick up materials. All library materials that are returned will be thoroughly cleaned.

Students in Grades 3 to 12 have access to the **LRSD Digital Library**. Of special note:

- Please ensure that students know where to locate their library card and PIN numbers to access this resource (refer to teacher librarians and library assistants for help).
- Hundreds of new titles and duplicate copies were added to the **LRSD Digital Library** over the weekend. If there are titles that students and staff would like to see added, please ask your teacher librarian or library assistant to contact Kathy Atkin. Please keep in mind that Overdrive does not have exclusive rights for every digitized epub or audio book available. For example, we

are unable to provide content that is already available through another provider such as Amazon. As well, some authors and publishers choose not to digitize their books.

Currently, students in Kindergarten to Grade 2 do not have access to this resource. Please direct younger students to the **TumbleBookLibrary** as an alternative (refer to teacher librarians and library assistants for details).

We are committed to providing as many opportunities for students as possible to maintain a sense of community, while recognizing that it will not replicate the learning that takes place on a regular basis in our classrooms. We are collectively doing the best we can under such exceptional circumstances.