



## Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board Enters Phase 2 of Learning at Home

A message to Parents and Guardians:

On March 31, 2020, the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Education announced that, following the advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, schools across the province will remain closed until May 4, 2020, at the earliest. Although our current context presents some challenges for student learning, our staff have been working diligently to prepare for this time and will be supporting student learning in a variety of ways.

This form of learning in no way replaces the richness of the learning that takes place in our classrooms, rather, it is an interim response during these unprecedented times. We appreciate your commitment in supporting your child's education as we navigate this together.

### NPSC Learn at Home Plan

By now every student should have received communication from one or more of their teachers or their school principal. This may have been a message on Edsby, a phone call or a message in a Google classroom. If you have not received a communication from your child's teacher, we encourage you to reach out to your child's Principal or Vice Principal.

Many teachers have been providing a variety of activities to keep students engaged with course material over the past week. **Beginning April 6, teachers will begin to assign coursework and activities and provide feedback or assessment as necessary.**

The suggested hours per week per student and the subject areas of focus are a minimum guideline and refer to the amount of time students will spend on the work assigned by their teachers. Given the distinctiveness of our Catholic education system, our curriculum focus will also include Religion and Family Life.

Grade Range	
K-Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5 hours of work per student per week</li><li>• Focus: Literacy and Math</li></ul>
Grades 4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5 hours of work per student per week</li><li>• Focus: Literacy and math + science and social studies</li></ul>
Grades 7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10 hours of work per student per week</li><li>• Focus: Core math, literacy, science and social studies</li></ul>
Grades 9-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 hours of work per course per week</li><li>• Focus: Achieving credits/completion/graduation</li></ul>

Students with special education needs will receive appropriate accommodations and/or modifications where necessary, to reflect students' IPRC and IEP, and families are encouraged to reach out to their child's teacher and/or principal to establish a plan to help support their child's learning during this time.

### **Access to Technology and Wifi**

If your child does not have access to adequate technology or wifi to continue their learning at this time, please contact your school Principal or Vice Principal. Our board is currently investigating how to help ensure all students have access to the technology they need to continue learning.

### **Report Cards**

All students will be receiving final report cards this year. Graduating students will receive midterm marks on April 23, 2020 which will reflect the work completed by that time, in order to meet admission requirements for post-secondary education.

### **Graduation**

The Minister of Education continues to assure students and their families that **graduating students will not have their graduation or progression jeopardized by the developments surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic**. Students will still be able to apply to post-secondary education (including Apprenticeship, College and University), despite the challenges this semester. We will continue to update students on this information as it is available.

The Ministry previously announced that all EQAO assessments are cancelled for the remainder of this school year. As a result, the literacy graduation requirement (OSSLT) for students who are graduating in the 2019-2020 school year has been waived.

The graduation requirement to complete 40 hours of community involvement has also been suspended for this school year. However, community involvement hours that have been completed will be included on the report cards of graduating students.

### **Student Access to Schools**

There are no plans yet for students to access school buildings; however, we will await direction from the Ministry of Education regarding this matter and we will communicate this information to you, when we receive it.

### **Additional Learning Resources**

In the coming days we will launch a website called **NPSC Learn at Home**, to support student learning during this time. This website will provide resources for families, categorized by subject and grade level to help support students in their learning. We encourage you to continue to also explore the Ministry of Education [Learn at Home](#) platform, which contains a variety of resources to help support student learning at home.

Finally, our board has been sharing daily learning activities and links to educational websites on social media while students are away from the classroom. These posts are not mandatory but are resources for parents who wish to support their child's learning in a variety of fun and creative ways. Follow us on facebook ([/NPSCDSB](#)), twitter ([@npsc\\_schools](#)) and instagram ([@npsc\\_schools](#)) to receive these daily notifications and other important information regarding your child's learning.

We appreciate all your efforts to keep your children engaged with learning and to ensure their safety and well-being. Please continue to follow the advice of the [North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit](#). We continue to keep you and your families, our school communities, as well as those around the globe in our prayers during this time of uncertainty.