



## THE PROTESTANT SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PENETANGUISHENE

VILLAGE SQUARE MALL  
2 POYNTZ STREET, BOX 107  
PENETANGUISHENE, ONTARIO L9M 1M2  
TELEPHONE (705) 549-6422 FAX (705) 549-2768

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information – March 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today I am reaching out to all of you to provide you with my weekly update during these unprecedented times. As we all continue to try to fully understand the world's current situation, please know that we are all in this together and will work with one another to support each other. The containment strategies in which we are all asked to follow are now more important than ever. We must work together by:

- Staying at home as per the provincial and federal requests
- Avoiding gatherings
- Practicing adequate physical distancing
- Washing your hands for 15-20 seconds with soap and using hand sanitizer
- Coughing or sneezing into your arm
- If you have any symptoms, self-monitoring and self-isolating, and contacting a health care professional if symptoms persist
- If you have travelled outside Canada recently, ensuring you self-isolate for 14 days

As a school board, our first and most important priority is your child's safety and well being. Please be aware that there are many resources that we have posted on the [Board's website](#), including those from School Mental Health Ontario to help support positive mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic for your child, other family members, or someone you may know in need at this time. We will continue to update you and make you aware of further resources as they become available.

We know that as parents/guardians, one question you may have is how your child's education is going to take place and what it will look like. The Government of Ontario has initiated Phase 1 of what has been called the '[LEARN AT HOME](#)' Plan to support students and families while school is closed due to COVID-19. We have provided further educational sites on the [Burkevale Protestant Separate School website](#) that you may find beneficial for your children to access. This phase of learning will be in place until April 5, 2020.

With school closures extending beyond April 5, 2020, the next phase of the distance learning, will have staff develop a plan that will be initiated on April 6, 2020. Planning has begun and we will be seeking information from each family in regards to Information Technology supports and needs that exist in our community. A phone message to each family through BrightArrow messaging service will occur on Friday, March 27, 2020. Further information about what this distance learning platform will involve will be provided to you later next week.



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We are aware that access to the internet or equipment may pose a challenge in responding to the Ministry of Education's commitment to ensure the continuity of learning for our students. We will try to find solutions to these challenges, but I do stress to all of you to not worry about this. This is the time to focus on our health and the health of our fellow citizens in Canada.

We are very cognizant of what the recent shut down of non-essential businesses in Ontario can mean to households financially, in addition to the health concerns of the pandemic, along with the many other demands that may exist in each home. This new phase of learning is not intended to create further stress and we are not going to ask you to take on the role of teacher, in addition to everything else you are trying to manage. Our plan is to provide our students with the opportunity to continue their education in a careful, planned and methodical manner that will be as inclusive and varied as possible, and will be balanced to meet the needs of our families.

We continue to pray that you and your family remain in good health.

I will continue to communicate with you on a weekly basis and provide you with new information and updates during these unparalleled times.

Sincerely,

Mr. Tim Overholt  
Supervisory Officer