

## School Closure Update #3 - Learn At Home Resources for Students

Dear Students:

This has been a most unusual March Break and it certainly has been a big learning experience for all of us.

As you know, all OCDSB schools will be closed until April 5th as part of the provincial strategy to reduce the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). This is a time for all of us to practice social distancing, regular hand washing and self-isolation where required.

Many students have asked what happens to their learning while they are not at school. Today, the Minister of Education released a new online learning portal to help students learn at home while schools are closed. The portal has resources, links and ideas for elementary and secondary students. The learning materials are available in both English and French. The portal is called "Learn At Home". It does not replace what students have been learning at school, but it will help to keep you connected to some of the things you were learning at school.

- [Elementary Students](#) – here are some links and interactive activities that you might find interesting.
- [Secondary Students](#) – **the content for secondary students is focused on STEM courses to help ensure core competencies and skills are reinforced. The high school resources include access to [High School Courses — Keep up with studies](#)** These online courses are being temporarily adapted to allow for independent study (not for credit). You can begin when you like and work at your own pace.
- [Parents, Guardians or Caregivers](#) – there is also information and resources for parents and guardians so feel free to share this information with them.
- The OCDSB is developing a list of additional learning resources and will share more information next week.

We recognize that not all students have the technology or wifi access that they need to use these materials. The OCDSB is looking into this matter and will work with the Ministry so all students can have access to learning resources during this time.

We know there are more questions and we are working to get answers. Here are a few questions that we can answer right now:

- **Will the school year be extended into the summer months?** The decision to extend the school year would be made by the Ministry of Education and, at this time, we have not received this direction.
- **Will students be at risk of not graduating?** At this time, that should not be an issue. We are making every effort to support students and minimize the effects of the closure and ensure continuity of learning. The Ministry of Education will make decisions like this one. We will share it with students and families.

- **Will this impact college and university applications?** It may impact the timing of information. We know that the current situation is happening across the country at both the secondary and post-secondary levels. In Ontario, we anticipate that OCAS and OUAC will provide additional information about the impact on applications and notifications. There may be some delays. We also expect that colleges and universities will share more information as it becomes available.
- **Can I contact my teacher, vice principal, principal during the closure?** After March Break, while schools are closed, teachers, vice principals, and principals will be available by email should you have any urgent questions or concerns.

All of this uncertainty can make people feel anxious. Remember that if you are feeling anxious, you should talk to a caring adult. You can also take a look at the resources available from [KidsHELPPHONE Messaging about COVID-19](#)

Take good care and practice social distancing and good handwashing.

Thanks very much.

Camille Williams-Taylor  
Director of Education/Secretary of the Board