



## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64 (GULF ISLANDS)

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March 18, 2020

To the students, staff and families of Gulf Islands School District,

Yesterday, the provincial government announced that, effective immediately, in-class instruction for B.C.'s K to 12 learners is suspended indefinitely. This temporary measure, to protect students, staff and the public against the spread of COVID-19, was made in consultation with school districts, stakeholders and the Ministry of Health, and under the direction of the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

Minister of Education Rob Fleming made the following declarations:

1. Districts will ensure continuity of educational services as provided for under the *School Act*.
2. Final grades will be issued for all K to 12 students in British Columbia.
3. All students who are eligible to graduate will graduate this year as expected. Although some graduation assessments will be postponed, students who are on track to graduate will do so.
4. The Ministry of Education is working with post-secondary institutions to ensure the application and transition processes continue uninterrupted.

While these circumstances create some uncertainties, assurances have been made that all students on track to promote to the next grade level will do so. The Ministry of Education is in continued contact with school districts regarding best practices in service delivery and to determine how this will look for learners, educators and families.

Be assured that, although SD64 in-class instruction is suspended until further notice, staff are preparing to deliver instructional services to students upon return from Spring Break. Principals and classroom teachers will be reaching out to students and families to ensure all learners are connected to their educational program.

Please take the time to discuss these decisions with your student(s) to support a sense of security and well-being. These measures are being taken to protect us all – students, staff, families and the most vulnerable. This is an unprecedented time in the British Columbia public school system. To reiterate the Minister's words, we must all work together to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We remain in close contact with the Ministry of Education for developing updates and will communicate new information as it becomes available.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for all our partner groups and education community for their patience, understanding and cooperation. We must continue to work together during this challenging and rapidly evolving situation.

Respectfully,

Dr. Scott Benwell  
Superintendent/CEO