



Bluewater District School Board

Alana Murray, *Director of Education*

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March 23, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may have heard in the media, the provincial government has launched a new online portal to assist families with student learning during the current closure of schools due to COVID-19. Details are available in the provincial government's media release, [Ontario Helping Students Learn from the Safety of Their Own Home](#).

Please find attached a letter from Minister of Education Stephen Lecce with further information on the new online portal, and provincial planning that is happening to ensure student learning continues should the current school shutdown period extend beyond April 5, 2020.

Bluewater District School Board is working in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and other Ontario school boards, on a regular basis, to strategize ways in which to support students and families should an extension to the school shutdown period occur. Our board's Learning Services staff are actively investigating a number of possible options to support our schools in delivering programs to students. As I am sure you can appreciate, there are many questions and logistics for us to consider regarding content, methods of program delivery, and accessibility for all. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this unprecedented situation to find creative and effective solutions, while ensuring the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

As new details unfold, we will communicate our plans with parents/guardians accordingly. In addition to SchoolMessenger notifications, we will continue to post ongoing updates and resources on our dedicated web page, http://www.bwdsb.on.ca/Parents/COVID-19_Updates, and on our Bluewater District School Board Facebook and Twitter pages.

During these challenging times, I once again thank all our students, staff, and families for continuing to practice social distancing and other important recommendations by our local, provincial, and federal public health officials. Take care and stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alana Murray', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Alana Murray
Director of Education