



Qualicum
SCHOOL DISTRICT

International Student Program

School District No. 69 (Qualicum) Ross Pepper, District Principal Email rpepper@sd69.bc.ca www.schoolincanada.ca

Dear Partners,

We feel that it was important to give you an update of what is happening in our district and the continuation of a quality ISP program.

As we are still on Spring Break, we are awaiting further direction and clarification from the Ministry of Education as to how we will be supporting a continuation of learning. Next week, we will not be resuming normal school procedures of students returning to school and they will remain home. It will take some time for teachers to return and develop strategies to implement the continuation of learning.

However, the Ministry of Education has reiterated that all students will receive their final marks and will be able to validate their transcripts. Students will be able to move to the next Grade and Gr. 12 students, if now in a position to graduate will graduate. From this perspective, students have met their educational requirements.

Globally, we have seen a number of countries with an increase in the number of COVID-19 patients, and have been ordered to stay at home. In Canada, both our Federal and Provincial government agencies are encouraging us to maintain social distancing and if we do not need to go out, stay home.

We are unsure as to what to expect in the coming days, but again globally, we are seeing that many countries are remaining home with only limited access to going out for groceries. People are experiencing loss of jobs, caring for elderly parents and worried for their family's safety and health. This additional stress may not be the best environment for the international student.

We will continue to do our best in supporting our students but we felt that it was necessary for us to share our concerns as we are unsure as what is going to happen in the near future. We encourage you to speak with the natural parents and discuss if it would be in the best interest for their child to return home now, while flights are available and only if it is safe to do so. We do understand that for some countries, it is not safe for their children to return home but if it is possible, the parents should choose to do so.

Please appreciate that this is not the educational and cultural experience that we had hoped to offer our students. Although we are continuing to do our very best to support our students, we must be honest in sharing with you our concerns and thoughts and allowing parents to make an informed decision.

Sincerely,

Ross Pepper and Ronda Bell