



Board of Education
School District No. 22 (Vernon)
1401 – 15th Street, Vernon, BC V1T 8S8

March 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Agents of International Students:

We are writing to update you on the current situation in British Columbia regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yesterday, March 17, the BC Minister of Education (see attached letter) directed all schools to immediately suspend in-class instruction until further notice. He also made the following key points:

1. **Every student will receive a final mark, and all students on track to move to the next grade will do so in the fall.** For grades 10 and 11 students, graduation assessments will be postponed.
2. **Every student eligible to graduate from Grade 12 this year will graduate.** The only graduation assessment required for current Grade 12 students is the Grade 10 numeracy assessment. The Ministry of Education will ensure Grade 12 students who have not yet completed this assessment and who are otherwise on track to graduate are able to meet this graduation requirement.
3. **The ministry will also work with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training and with post-secondary institutions on admissions and the smooth transition of graduating students in this extra-ordinary year.**

This morning the Prime Minister of Canada extended the closure of Canadian borders to include US citizens. We are concerned that it may become increasingly more difficult for students to return to their home country. As a result, it is strongly recommended that the parents/agents of our International students consider booking return flights for their students as soon as possible. We are worried that if our students delay their travel home, it may no longer be an option for them.

Given the messages from both the Canadian and British Columbia governments, we do not expect in-class instruction to resume soon. The district is working on ways to continue learning online but we cannot currently provide the details. Once the details are known, we will provide those to our agents.

We understand these are difficult choices during very challenging circumstances. Our priority, as a school district, is to keep all students safe and secure.

Please contact Tracy Godfrey, tgodfrey@sd22.bc.ca, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Joe Rogers
Superintendent of Schools



Tracy Godfrey
Principal of International Programs

A Great Place to Learn

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