

September 21, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may be aware, we had significantly more elementary families choose to learn asynchronously (from home, on their own schedule, either digitally or offline) than expected. Setting up a model to meet the needs of our families but that is also sustainable for our school district has not been an easy task. Today, however, we are pleased to share with you some details and improvements to this program.

Our goal for all our remote elementary school programs is to keep students connected with their regular school, making it easier for students to change between learning models should they need to. Therefore, elementary students in the asynchronous program (independent study model) will now receive learning materials from their regular classroom teacher at their local school.

### **Asynchronous Digital**

This program is designed to be a form of independent study for our students while learning at home. Students who have chosen to learn digitally will now have access to the Microsoft (MS) Teams platform used by their class. This is where they will access and submit assignments to a teacher at your local school. Parents will continue to provide direct support for their child's learning at home however, teachers will also check in with students periodically over the MS Teams platform, by email or phone. There will be occasions for students to book time with their teacher if additional support is needed.

### **Asynchronous Non-Digital**

Those who have chosen to learn offline will receive printed materials to support their learning. These students will not have access to the MS Teams classroom platform. The first booklet of learning activities has been mailed out to the students in this program and should be arriving soon. Families can expect to receive materials from their teacher in the future, every two weeks. Completed materials will need to be returned to the school for marking and assessment. Teachers will do periodic check-ins with students, via email or phone. Parents will continue to provide direct support for their child's learning at home. There will be opportunities for students to book time with their teacher if additional support is needed.

### **Dates to Remember**

All asynchronous elementary students should hear from their teacher by **Friday, September 25**, with the first day of "school" being **Monday, September 28**. Please note: if you or your child are not contacted by your child's teacher **by 3 p.m. on Friday, September 25**, contact your local school via email or phone.

While students wait for their own printed materials to arrive or to hear from their teacher, there are some resources that have been developed by our Virtual School Team that they can access:

- [K-3 learning package](#)
- [Grade 4 – 6 learning package](#)
- [Grade 7 – 8 learning package](#)
- [UCDSB Remote learning information and guidelines](#)
- [UCDSB Virtual Learning Commons](#)

Thank you,  
Virtual School Administrative Team School

**John McAllister**  
Chair



**Stephen Sliwa**  
Director