



Office of the Director of Education

December 23, 2020

Dear TCDSB Families:

We have been advised by the Government of Ontario that all publicly funded schools in the province are to transition to remote learning following the Christmas break.

Please be assured that the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) remains committed to providing the best possible education for all students, while ensuring the safety and well-being of all students and staff.

At this time, we are ready and equipped to transition into remote learning for all TCDSB students. The Board's [TCDSB's Transition to Distance Learning Plan](#) will enable staff to pivot to remote learning for their students as has been done throughout the year when specific schools and cohorts have been asked to self-isolate. The Ministry of Education also makes clear standards for instruction of synchronous learning so that families know what to expect and to ensure students are fully engaged in their learning. For Kindergarten students, this means 180 minutes of synchronous learning. For students in Grades 1 – 8, this means 225 minutes of the instructional day must be synchronous learning, while in Grades 9-12 80% of the course is delivered synchronously. Synchronous learning is part of the 300-minute instructional day during which teachers remain available to students.

For elementary students, this will mean that from January 4th to January 8th remote learning will be provided by your child(ren)'s current teacher using Brightspace or Google Classroom. Elementary students are anticipated to return to in-person (if that is their selected learning model) on Monday, January 11th and if they receive student transportation, services will resume as well.

For secondary students, remote learning will be provided from January 4th to January 22nd for the portion you were attending in-person. The anticipated return to in-person learning will be Monday, January 25th.

Secondary Model – Full-time distance Learning

**Week 2 – Jan 4-8 2021 (Class 2 morning, Class 1 afternoon)
(Continuing from Week 1 Dec 14-18 2020)**
Week 1– Jan 11-15 2021 (Class 1 morning, Class 2 afternoon)
Week 2– Jan 18-22 2021 (Class 2 morning, Class 1 afternoon)

Secondary Schedule for the Week of January 4, 2021:

BLOCK A/B – 120 minutes synchronous learning daily BLOCK C/D – 120 minutes synchronous learning daily	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 am - 11:00 am BLOCK A/B Distance Learning 150 Minutes	Class 2 (cohort c and d) 	Class 2 (cohort c and d) 	Class 2 (cohort c and d) 	Class 2 (cohort c and d) 	Class 2 (cohort c and d) 
11:00 am - 12:20 pm LUNCH AND BREAK					
12:20 pm - 2:50 pm BLOCK C/D Distance Learning 150 Minutes	Class 1 (cohort a and b) 	Class 1 (cohort a and b) 	Class 1 (cohort a and b) 	Class 1 (cohort a and b) 	Class 1 (cohort a and b) 

Elementary and Secondary students with special education needs will also be supported remotely by their classroom/program teacher(s). This includes virtual support from education workers and board professionals as required (e.g. Social Workers, Mental Health Professional Workers, Speech and Language Pathologists, Psychologists and other professionals). Beginning January 4, *school staff supporting students with multiple and complex needs* will be contacting families directly to discuss any concerns, answer questions, and explore available support options including in-person regarding the week of January 4-8th for elementary and January 4-22nd for secondary students.

Please note that students at **St. Anne's Virtual School for Learning** will remain as is during this time. All Elementary and Secondary students with special education needs will continue to have their programs delivered virtually.

Families that were provided with devices last year may continue to use them for this period of remote learning. For families who have a **child in need of device for remote learning**, please contact the school principal on January 4th. Equitable distribution of devices will be based on student need.

We understand that a transition to remote learning for students who were attending school in-person will have some unintended impact and supports are available remotely by reaching out to your school Principal. Other supports include the **Kids Help Phone**, which offers 24/7 counselling and referral services. To use this free resource, children can call 1-800-668-6868, or text CONNECT to 686868.

Child Care and Before and After School Programs

All child care programs serving infant, toddler and preschool-aged children located inside TCDSB schools will be permitted to remain open during the lockdown period, however families should confirm details with their individual child care operator.

During the period when elementary schools are closed and operating virtually (from January 4-8), all before and after school, authorized recreation programs will be closed to school age children and will resume when elementary schools return to in-person learning on January 11, 2021.

The Ministry of Education will implement a targeted Emergency Child Care (ECC) program for eligible parents of school-aged children who may not be able to accommodate their child's learning and/or care at home. ECC for school-aged children will be offered, at no cost to eligible parents who are on a designated list of essential workers. This list will be available after December 29th, 2020. Please contact the child care operator directly for more information and availability.

The health and safety of students and staff remain our primary focus as we continue to follow the guidance of Toronto Public Health and the Ministry of Education.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this time.



Dr. Brendan Browne
Director of Education

CC: All Principals
Trustees
Superintendents