



# York Catholic District School Board

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December 23, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are enjoying the Christmas break with family. This letter is to share some important information regarding the latest update from the Ontario Ministry of Education (MOE). Following the Winter Break, all Ontario schools will be closed to students for a period of time as outlined below. These closures are being put in place to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

## **Elementary Schools**

From January 4-8, 2021, **all elementary schools** will be closed to students. All students will participate in remote online learning during this time. Elementary schools are expected to reopen to students on Monday, January 11, 2021. The grades 7 & 8 students of Our Lady of the Lake will also return to school on Monday, January 11, 2021.

## **Secondary Schools**

From January 4 - 22, 2021, **all secondary schools** will be closed to students. All students will participate in remote online learning during this time. Secondary schools are expected to reopen to students on Monday, January 25, 2021.

St. Luke students will return to school on Monday, January 11, 2021.

**Before and after care programs** will not operate while schools are closed to students. For **child care centres**, please check with your child care provider.

## **Connecting to the Virtual Classroom:**

Most students should be well aware of how to log into their virtual classrooms. For students who have not yet entered their teacher's virtual classroom, the classroom teacher will either provide the class code, or invite them into their classroom and students will accept the invitation. Student schedules will remain the same.

For **secondary students** attending in-person classes, all classes will shift to remote online learning beginning January 4, 2021. Current schedules will remain the same.

## **Need a device?**

If your child is in need of a Chromebook or iPad to participate in remote online learning, please [complete a survey](#) (one survey per child) by 12 noon on Monday, December 28, 2020.

If you fill out the survey requesting a device be loaned to your child, your child's school will contact you on January 4, 2021 to schedule a curbside pickup. The number of devices a school can lend out will depend on availability. Curbside pickup will take place on January 4 & 5, 2021.

### **Technical Support**

Families looking for technical support during remote online learning are encouraged to visit our Call Centre website <http://help.ycdsb.ca/vle>.

### **Resources for Families**

Parents/guardians looking for additional resources, including assistance on how to navigate virtual classrooms such as Google Classroom and Brightspace D2L, can visit the [Parent Resources](#) section of the Board's website. The Ministry has also made available some online resources on the following Ministry and TVO/TFO websites: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-at-home>, [TVO Learn](#) and [TFO IDÉOLO, apprendre à la maison](#)

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The mental health and well-being of students is more important than ever during these challenging times. If you are concerned about your child's emotional well-being, please contact your child's school principal. Mental health professionals are available for assistance, and resources are also available on the [Mental Health and Well-Being page](#) of the Board's website. You can also stay up to date on what the Mental Health Team is providing by following them on Twitter [@YCDSB\\_MH](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience. We will continue to share updates and information with you as they become available. For more information and updates please follow the Board on Twitter: [@YCDSB](#) or visit: [www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca).

May you welcome love, peace, joy and hope into your hearts and minds this Christmas as we welcome the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Have a safe, restful and blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours in Catholic Education,



Mary Battista  
Interim Director of Education