



Lockerby Composite School

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Dear Viking Community:

As we proceed through our seventh week of distance learning, we hope that everyone in our community continues to do well during these unique times, as all families continue to face many new challenges. As many of you are already aware, the Minister of Education has announced that all schools in Ontario will remain closed until the end of the school year (June 26th, 2020), in order to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to keep everyone safe. Although this is a necessary collective step forward, we are saddened by not being able to see our Vikings in our building's hallways to conclude the school year.

In addition to the Ministry of Education's announcement earlier this week, Director Blaseg has also reiterated that our secondary school examinations have been replaced with culminating activities and that all students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 will be receiving report cards at year-end. Likewise, it has also been announced that later this summer, the provincial government will be releasing a plan to help strengthen learning and safety protocols to enable staff and students to return to in-class instruction for the 2020 – 2021 school year. That plan will also be bolstered by an enhanced province-wide virtual learning program, and an expanded summer learning program. At this time, we know that some students and families are eager to collect personal belongings that remain in our school. Please be assured that plans are underway to determine how this can be done safely. We are working with Public Health Sudbury on next steps and will share the plan as soon as it is finalized.

From now until the end of the year, Lockerby Composite School will continue to implement creative means, with all of its staff members, to make at-home learning a positive experience. We have heard that students have been enjoying their interactions with their teachers and peers, as well as the connection and engagement it offers. As always, an overarching goal in supporting our Viking students has been to provide opportunities for them to demonstrate overall expectations in their Semester 2 classes and to achieve credits, while creating a supportive learning environment and building a sense of belonging for each of our students. At this time, a reminder that:

The Ministry of Education and Rainbow District School Board have indicated that the final marks for all students (elementary and secondary) will be based on work completed prior to school closures on March 13th, 2020. Marks can be improved with work completed and graded from April 6th, 2020 to the end of the school year with teacher-led distance learning. **It is critical that students have a solid foundation of the key learning expectations in order to prepare for the next year of learning. The goal is to continue with assessment and provide opportunities to develop necessary skills that will build foundational knowledge.** Attendance for classes will still be taken every day, and it is important for students to communicate proactively with their teacher(s) if they require additional support. Likewise, it is both the Ministry of Education and Rainbow District School Board's expectations that students continue to complete assigned work (with integrity and academic honesty) and do their best to meet timelines, commitments, and due dates.

We will continue to share any and all new information and next steps (with respect to the above and otherwise) with the Viking community as soon as it becomes available. Of course, our goal is always to continue to help support every learner as best we can and as always, the health and safety of students and staff is our first and foremost priority. Thank you for your patience as we continue this new journey together.

Sincerely,
LOCKERBY COMPOSITE SCHOOL
Per:

CRAIG RUNCIMAN
Principal