



March 20, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As previously discussed, the Ministry of Education Response Planning Team directed provincial school divisions to invoke a pause in programming from March 20-27, inclusive. Schools will be closed, and staff will be assigned to home with no work responsibilities during this time. As per the Light of Christ Catholic School Division's Business Continuity Plan, select central office staff members will ensure essential services are maintained over this time frame.

The Ministry's Response Planning Team is crafting an updated document for families with more information regarding the supplemental curriculum we will begin to address on March 30th. I will share their update as soon as it is available. As previously mentioned, I appreciate your patience as our talented and dedicated staff begin working in whatever our new environment entails.

Our staff typically experience schools without kids on professional/non-instructional days. They work in preparation for the return of students in August with an incredible sense of excitement. During the school year, PD days are spent planning, assessing and learning, all in anticipation of the return of their beloved students. This week was very different. The uncertainty is challenging for students, families, and staff. But we must begin with this pause to protect our collective health before we can address the future.

What can be shared with certainty is that when our staff return to work (location to be determined as per the direction of the government) on March 30th, they will do so with the same passion and professionalism they have always demonstrated. We will adapt and help our students flourish. Even if separated by distance for an indefinite period, I can assure you that you children, our students, are in very good hands.

As always, the Light of Christ website will continue to house all updates. Should you have any questions from March 20 – 27, please call central office or email me directly at c.rideout@lccsd.ca

Please see **APPENDIX A** for a list of ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect your families and our community.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory Rideout'.

Cory Rideout, Director of Education

APPENDIX A

Preventing the spread of COVID-19

At this time, it is crucial that we all do our part in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Our individual actions will have an impact on stopping this virus. Please see how you can do your part below:

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing means making changes in your everyday routines in order to minimize close contact with others, including;

- Avoiding crowded places and non-essential gatherings (e.g. playdates, malls, birthday parties)
- Avoiding common greetings, such as handshakes
- Limiting contact with people at higher risk (e.g. older adults and those in poor health)
- Keeping a distance of at least 2 arms lengths (approx. 2 metres) from others, as much as possible

How to practice social distancing:

- Greet with a wave instead of a handshake, a kiss or a hug
- **Stay at home as much as possible, including for meal and entertainment**
- **Host virtual playdates for your kids**
- Use technology to keep in touch with friends and family

Remember to:

- Wash hands often for at least 20 seconds and avoid touching your face
- Cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm
- Avoid touching surfaces people touch often

