



March 16, 2020

Families of Canadian Rockies Public Schools,

Thank you for your patience as CRPS works to make plans for students and staff in this unprecedented, new reality that is upon us. CRPS leaders are working with the province to collaboratively develop a consistent plan for the “continuity of education” for students while at the same time, maintaining the safety of staff and students, which continues to be our top priority. Just this morning school district leaders from across the province, including CRPS, met in a teleconference call with Alberta Education.

You will see the term “continuity of education” being used a great deal in future communications from CRPS and the province. This term refers to the plans for teaching and learning that will be developed to ensure that students continue to receive an education.

Please keep in mind that this situation is fluid, that new information continues to come in and that we will let you know as soon as we receive information that families need to be made aware of. At this time, we can provide you with this short update:

- a. Parent teacher conferences will NOT take place this week. A new timeline and a new format for parent/teacher conferences is currently under consideration. An update in this regard will likely come after spring break.
- b. Schools are currently working on developing a format for students to pick up their personal belongings that ensures the safety of both staff and students. You will receive details directly from your child’s school regarding this process.
- c. Schools are currently working on a plan for students and families to be able to continue to receive mental health supports that they may have been receiving and those that arise.
- d. Continuity of Learning for students: As stated above, provincial work has begun to develop a consistent plan for continuing learning for students. Some of the partners involved in this work include Alberta Education, The College of Alberta Superintendents, and The Alberta Teachers Association. For this week, and possibly into next week, students will NOT be receiving learning materials from their teachers while this important provincial work is initiated and developed. CRPS will follow timelines that are dictated by this collaborative, provincial work.
- e. Teachers will not be available for questions from students or parents at this time, however, they are working hard to prepare for this new reality of teaching and learning. If you have an urgent question, please contact your school administrator. Once continuity of learning plans have been developed for students, staff will be available during regular work hours should you wish to contact them via phone or via technology. We will notify you as soon as these plans have been developed and teachers are available for questions.
- f. Graduation: Options for students to mark this important milestone are being developed.

As stated by the Alberta Medical Health Officer, we encourage you to be diligent in encouraging your children to limit congregating with their friends to help ensure their safety.

CRPS will send another update to parents regarding “continuity of learning” for students sometime next week. We appreciate that this situation, with so much uncertainty, is difficult for our families. We will continue to provide information on a regular basis. We want to assure you that we are working diligently both within our district, and with district leaders across the province, to ensure that students continue to receive a high quality Alberta education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher MacPhee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'C'.

Christopher MacPhee
Superintendent of Schools
Canadian Rockies Public Schools