



DUNCAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Building on Faith, Family & Community

March 25th, 2020

Dear DCS Community,

“Love Rightly”

I am encouraged by the level of support and care that people are offering to one another. Closing churches and moving to online services, checking in with your neighbours, respecting physical distancing - these are all ways we show love to those around us, care for the vulnerable and at-risk, and pull together as a community.

What does the next week look like for DCS students?

You might be feeling a great deal of uncertainty and stress during these times. The last thing DCS wants to do is add more stress to you as parents. Early feedback from families in Alberta, Ontario and US States who are already engaging in learning from home has taught us the importance of not overwhelming families with assignments and emails from multiple teachers.

We understand that most families have little to no experience with home learning, and in some families, parents remain very busy. We are designing our learning program in a way that we hope reduces pressure from the shoulders of parents/caretakers, and allows students to engage in meaningful Christian education with the support of your family’s DCS “home” teacher. We are moving slowly and thoughtfully, not rushing the process, so that our families are not overwhelmed. We want to keep things simple, consistent, and meaningful.

All DCS students will be automatically transitioned to our home learning program. From K-9, a DCS teacher has been assigned to work with the children in your family as a whole. Families can expect to hear from their “home” teacher on Monday or Tuesday, March 30-31, 2020. K-1 families, you can expect to retain Mrs. Castella or Mrs. Croswell as your teacher, with a few exceptions. For Gr. 2-9 families, we have made every effort to assign your family a teacher that you already have a relationship with. For students in grades 10-12, you can also expect to hear from your secondary school teachers on Monday or Tuesday. Grade 10-12 students will have the same teachers that they have had all year, with a few exceptions.

During the week of March 30, we will focus on care and communication with families and students. Literacy and math instruction will be the focus academically and will begin the following week (the week of April 6). Additional subject areas, projects, and optional virtual clubs (such as Art Club, French Club, Book Clubs, Bible Study, etc) will be rolling out over the next several weeks. In some cases, your kids are already engaging in learning at home, and we will be open to receiving those examples of learning rather than piling on more activities.

Students who would like to reach out to their teachers are welcomed to do so.

What about in-school services? Who is that for?

The BC Government has asked that the school work towards accommodating preschool and elementary-aged students whose parents cannot be home due to their working in essential areas, such as healthcare or grocery stores. This may even include families outside of the DCS community. We want to be a support to our community, and this is one way we can help.

The government has also indicated that schools are to consider the needs of vulnerable students and students who have special needs, and provide limited in-school services as best we can, in a safe manner. If you believe that you fit into these categories, please call or email (office@duncanchristian.com) the school so that we can assess our ability to accommodate those students, ensuring enhanced cleaning and physical distancing measures are in place.

Please do not bring your children to school without first having talked to us about your situation. Please do not come to school if you are ill, or if you are in self-isolation.

We will create a schedule that will allow students or families who need to pick up materials from the school to do so. This will be provided in the coming days. Secondary students, please do not come to the school unless you've talked to and received permission from Mr. Terpstra (pterpstra@duncanchristian.com).

What should I do if I'm feeling stressed or overwhelmed by the schoolwork my child has?

Next week you should not receive a bunch of academic work; rather, staff will reach out to re-connect with students and families. However, once students begin receiving academic work, please contact your DCS "home" teacher and let them know if you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed. We have been given a great deal of flexibility by the Ministry of Education and we will make adjustments to support your family's needs.

What should I do if I have no internet access at home?

Please call or text someone at school and let us know. We will support your family in ways that don't require the internet.

I'm not working. Can someone drop off groceries or school work packets at my house?

Yes, we will try to make arrangements to do this. Call or text someone at school and let us know your needs and we will do what we can to help. When staff reach out to you next week, please share your needs with them.

I'm losing work and am waiting to see what kind of financial supports are available from the government. Can I request tuition relief if needed later in April?

Yes, please email Stacey Green (sgreen@duncanchristian.com) at DCS to discuss options for tuition relief or call Stacey at 250-746-3654. Our desire is to support families in need during these challenging times.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

God is good, all the time.

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