



February 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please be advised that the field trip to Japan in March has been cancelled. This decision has been made by the Division Administration on behalf of all schools with Japan as a destination. Due to recent events regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus), our decision is made with our continued commitment for student safety.

This was a very difficult decision and we have considered several factors including the ever-evolving status and spread of the disease. Recent media reports advise that there have been 147 cases including four deaths (excluding the cases on a cruise ship). This new statistic illustrates our concern for the safety and well-being of students and staff when travelling.

We recognize that there has been a lot of work in planning, fundraising, and scheduling these trips. Nonetheless, the Division remains responsible for the safety of all our students. In light of these issues, we believe it is safer to keep our students closer to home at this time.

We will be working with the travel companies, insurance companies, and the schools involved in these trips to assist you in recovering funds that have been committed at this point. Your school will keep you informed as to the status of refunds in this process.

Krista MacGregor, Division Principal for School Operations Services, is available at 780-441-6090 to answer questions you may have. Alternatively, I may be contacted at 780-441-6119. Rest assured that this decision was not made lightly, and our priority remains student safety.

Sincerely,

Robert Martin  
Acting Superintendent