



Walking TOGETHER in the Light of Christ

April 2020

“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

These are unprecedented times in myriad ways for our world. Never before have we encountered a situation when classes have been cancelled completely and indefinitely in the province of Alberta. Never before have we encountered a time when even our celebration of the Eucharist has been cancelled. The Lent and Easter season are going to be very different for us this year. Let us make an extra effort to be an encounter with Christ for others in the absence of opportunity to gather at His Table. Let us focus on reaching out to each other in kindness and compassion in these times of uncertainty and anxiety.

It is early days of the mandated class cancellation, and our staff is now collaborating to come up with innovative ways to ensure continuity of education for our students as much as possible. Student learning remains at the forefront of our work.

We already have significant capacity to deliver aspects of the teaching and learning process virtually and will be looking at how we can maximize that capability. Our students are well versed in virtual classrooms, online assessments and collaborative working documents. It will take some time for us to carry out the shift, but we are confident that we will be able to develop interim programming in anticipation of schools being opened again at some time in the future. You can expect plans to be in place after Spring Break.

While you are waiting for formal plans to unfold, there are many opportunities that exist for students to engage in general subject matter. Many of our virtual classrooms provide home access to math and reading programs for students to practice and develop their skills in these areas. With your public library card, you have access to an incredible array of digital books and literature. Many of the world’s museums offer virtual tours and explanations about their displays. These are just a few examples of resources at your fingertips.

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The situation of education in Alberta is going to change daily. Information will be shared as it unfolds. Please continue to check your school's website and www.ecsd.net for updates. If you have not already signed up for our automatic notification system, SWIFT K-12, please contact your school to do so. This will allow you to receive school specific information as it becomes available.

The safety and welfare of the students and staff of Edmonton Catholic Schools is always our first priority. Responding in times of crisis requires that organizations remain calm and thorough in their response for the duration of the event. You have our commitment that we will continue to collaborate with AHS and Alberta Education in order to create the best possible scenario for your children and their continuity of learning.

Our Holy Father offers us some wisdom in these turbulent times: "Let us allow ourselves to be loved by God, so that we can give love in return. Let us allow ourselves to stand up and walk towards Easter." (03/17/20)

Have a blessed Easter!

Sincerely,

Robert Martin
Acting Superintendent

Joe Naccarato
Acting Superintendent

