

March 31, 2020

Dear UCDSB Families,

In an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19 and help “flatten the curve” on the virus, the Ontario government announced today [that they will now keep all schools closed to students until May 4](#). This includes schools operated by the Upper Canada District School Board.

Over the last two weeks, the UCDSB has been planning and connecting regularly with the Ministry of Education to work out how students will remain engaged in learning during this school closure period. The Ministry of Education announced today that it would be providing additional guidance to school boards across the province around moving towards distance learning for students in Ontario schools. When we have more details on this, we will share it with our schools, staff, and families.

While we don't yet have answers to all the questions that naturally come with a school closure of this magnitude, we want you to know we are committed to the following goals:

- Getting each and every one of our secondary students across the finish line so that they can complete their semester;
- Keeping elementary students engaged in their learning by assisting families with making connections to board-level and provincial resources; and
- Having all schools connect with each of our students, so to confirm that they know that we are here for them.

Currently, there are local resources assembled by our school board's staff for students to practice math and literacy skills on the [UCDSB website](#), organized by grade, as well as on the [government's website](#).

We want our students and their families to keep healthy, especially during these uncertain times. Please know there are several resources available to our families through the [United Way](#), [2-1-1 Ontario](#) and in our [Mental Health & Well-being Virtual Library](#). We will continue to update families through email via [My Family Room](#), [our website](#) and social media when new information becomes available.

Thank you and be well,

Stephen Sliwa
Director of Education
Upper Canada District School Board

John McAllister
Chair

Stephen Sliwa
Director