

April 6, 2020

Dear UCDSB Families,

As we begin a new week, I want to update you on our progress with Phase 2 of distance learning in our school district, and to further share resources made available to support student mental health and well-being during this unprecedented time.

Last week the Ministry of Education provided direction to school boards and teaching staff on [phase two of the provincial Learn At Home plan](#). As we move toward a teacher-led model of distance learning, it will look different depending on your school, grade, and where your child's teacher is situated in delivering the curriculum at this time. Please be assured that we are all committed to keeping students engaged in learning and moving forward.

### **Elementary: What to expect**

The Ministry has set expectations that teachers will provide five hours a week of instruction/activities for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 and 10 hours per week for students in Grade 7-8.

Please continue to check your email or other communication apps that are used by your child's teacher for more direction.

To aid in the transition to Phase 2, we have developed a second menu of learning activities for our Kindergarten to Grade 8 students. These are optional activities that are meant to provide choice and flexibility. They can be used to compliment anything that may be coming from the classroom teacher.

- [Math Activities – Kindergarten to Grade 3](#)
- [Math Activities – Grade 4 – 6](#)
- [Math Activities – Grade 7-8](#)
- [Literacy Activities – Kindergarten to Grade 3](#)
- [Literacy Activities – Grade 4- 6](#)
- [Literacy Activities – Grade 7-8](#)
- [Health & Physical Activity – K-8](#)

All these, plus other UCDSB resources and those provided by the province can be found on the [UCDSB Learn at Home section](#) of our website.

### **Secondary: What to Expect**

The Ministry has set expectations that teachers will provide three hours of instruction/course work per course, per week. Students should be checking their UCDSB email regularly for information from their teachers and the next steps.

**John McAllister**  
Chair

**Stephen Sliwa**  
Director

Students that already have access to the learning management system Desire2Learn (known as D2L) for online learning, should continue with their assignments. Before and after school continuing education courses will be moving into an online format, more information will come over the next few days.

Please know that our senior students on track to graduate this semester are a priority and we are committed to getting each of them across the finish line. Recognizing the unique social circumstances that we face at this time, the Ministry of Education has informed us that the completion of 40 volunteer hours as a requirement for graduation will be waived this year.

### Other Information and Resources

- If students do not have sufficient technology to actively take part in Phase 2 of Learn at Home, please [fill out this online survey](#) or call 613-342-0435 (toll free 1-888-593-5556) as a device may be available to you. We are working with our central staff, school principals, and local public health officials to create an approved distribution system for students in the greatest need of a computer or other device to support their learning. The provincial state of emergency does not permit students or parents to enter our schools and so we do require an approved process to safely distribute these devices. I look forward to updating you once the process has been finalized.
- The UCDSB has developed a [Mental Health & Wellness Library](#). Please access it, or [local community mental health organizations](#) if you or someone in your family is struggling during these uncertain times.
- If you have general questions or concerns, please email your principal or school directly, or leave a voice message at the school. Emails and phone messages are being picked up and returned. Contact details can be found on your school's website.
- Our [COVID-19 Updates page](#) and [FAQ section on our website](#) is a great first-stop for information, as are our social media accounts: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

We want our students and their families to stay healthy in body and mind as we progress through these uncertain times. What is especially important in this regard is that we make reasonable efforts to keep in touch with one another. Over the last two weeks, schools in the Upper Canada District School Board have been checking in with students and reaching out in different ways. These check-ins will continue, and our schools will do their very best to be available to answer questions as we proceed through these unfamiliar moments. We continue to find great comfort knowing that we are all in this together and can rely on the strength and goodwill of others.

Be well and stay safe,

Stephen Sliwa  
Director of Education  
Upper Canada District School Board

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Chair

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