



May 19, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Education Stephen Lecce [announced today that the school closure period will extend until the end of June](#), which means that students will not be returning to our school buildings for the rest of this school year. Given the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, this decision is not surprising and we fully appreciate the care and caution that the provincial government is using to approach this decision.

We know that this announcement will spark many questions from parents, including when they can collect their child's personal belongings from their school. We are currently working on a plan for this, in addition to addressing other implications that are the result of today's announcement. Please know that developing a plan to allow parents access to our schools will take time. We need to consult with the local Chief Medical Officers of Health about any plans for accessing our buildings under the current conditions. The province remains in a state of emergency and public health safety measures remain in place, including restrictions on gatherings of more than five people in one location.

Although our school buildings will not re-open this school year, classes are in session and learning will continue through the UCDSB [learn at home strategy](#) until the last day of school on June 26. We know that the continuity of learning each day is important for our students to practice and get better at skills that they have learned so far, to prepare for returning to their classroom once schools are reopened in the fall, and to seek a good balance between work, play and family commitments.

We will also be looking further into offering summer learning opportunities for our students, where families feel it would be beneficial for their children.

In addition to this very important announcement from the province today, here are some other items we wanted to bring to the attention of our UCDSB families:

1. Last week, we let students and parents know that our Grade 12 graduation ceremonies will be postponed until June 2021. Please know, graduation ceremonies *will* happen. Our 2020 graduates will get their opportunity to walk across the stage and receive a diploma that represents years of hard work and dedication. We are working with our secondary school principals and graduation committees to find alternative ways to recognize our graduates that will allow us to celebrate them this spring, while still respecting the current public health orders.
2. We know that leaving/graduation ceremonies for our Grade 6 and Grade 8 students are important as well, and we have not forgotten about these students. We are working through what might be possible for these groups.
3. We have again updated our [Learn at Home webpage](#) with the weekly activity menus. The quick links to the K-8 materials are below, however you can get these and more on our [Learn at](#)



[Home webpage](#). There are also resources for secondary students. Please be sure to contact your teacher or school principal should you need any help or support with distance learning.

If access to the internet or devices is a barrier for your child to participate in distance learning, printed materials will be supplied. This applies to our elementary and secondary students. Please contact your school principal or teacher directly.

- [Kindergarten Activities](#)
- [Gr. 1-3 Math Activities](#)
- [Gr. 1-3 Literacy Activities](#)
- [Gr. 4-6 Math Activities](#)
- [Gr. 4-6 Literacy Activities](#)
- [Gr. 7-8 Math Activities](#)
- [Gr. 7-8 Literacy Activities](#)
- [K-8 Health and Physical Education](#)

Please continue [to refer to our website](#) for information pertaining to school operations, [learn at home resources](#) and [well-being information](#).

Please stay safe and keep well,

Stephen Sliwa
Director of Education
Upper Canada District School Board