

April 20, 2020

Hello Bruce families,

The Province of Manitoba has communicated with the school divisions expectations for teaching, learning and assessment during at-home learning. These expectations come from conversations with parents and educators about the successes and challenges we all face during these unique times. We acknowledge that everyone's reality is different based on their own set of circumstances and while some have asked for more from the educational system, an equal number have asked for less.

The new expectations set guidelines to limit the variability across the province. We have been asked to prioritize the essential learning outcomes for each grade level and align essential outcomes around the areas of Reading, Writing, Numeracy and Movement. Learning and assessment will continue and be expected of all students. Teachers are working in grade level teams to provide opportunities for students to grow and be given feedback with future goals in mind, and we will still be continuing with the platforms you are used to or getting used to (Showbie, Kidblog, and Teams).

The differences that you will see will include strategies to simplify the expectations for parents in supporting their student and a greater emphasis on teachers working collaboratively towards supporting the learner. The expected amount of work per week will be reduced to approximately 10-15 hours per week of reading, writing and numeracy and movement time that can include a greater variety of activities to get students active. While the focus is literacy, numeracy and movement, teachers are working to find natural entry points for Science, Social Studies, the Arts and Practical arts to be infused into the learning outcomes, moving towards a more thematic approach to learning. For example, a class can study medieval times and look at how plagues affected population growth, impacted what we eat, the kind of art and music produced, impacted relations between countries and even the genetic makeup of today's population.

Most of the Math outcomes will remain the same across the grade levels as the layered curriculum is designed to already support the next grade level. If you feel that your child would benefit from further work than what is expected within these new guidelines, opportunities to extend beyond will also be provided.

The changes will be subtle and gradually implemented, depending on the natural workflow of the classes. Grade 6 classes will begin the transition this week as some have already heard, while the 7s and 8s will continue the work they have begun and will make the changes in a week or two.

As always, the Bruce staff is here to support you and your child, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have and we will do our best to help.

The schedule for locker pickup was emailed to parents as a reminder for Tuesday and Wednesday this week.

Have a good evening.

D. MacNeil and J. O'Brien