



Battle River School Division

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March 20, 2020
2:00 p.m.

To: Parents / Guardians of BRSD students

Re: COVID-19 and our schools – what's new today

Hello everyone.

Thank you for your support this week, as we have worked to ensure the continuity of student learning remains the focus during this turbulent time.

Alberta Education has made a few announcements today, including:

- Grade 12 Diploma Exams have been cancelled, for both April and June.
- As was stated earlier, Grade 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) are also cancelled.
- There is additional information about the amount of school work students can expect to receive from their teachers. It estimates that students up to Grade 6 should be spending about 5 hours per week on school work, while students in Grades 7 to 9 should aim for 10 hours and high school students should plan for about 3 hours per course.
- There is more detail in the Government's update, including a list of online learning resources you may wish to check out. Here is the link to where it is posted: [Continuing Student Learning](#)

We have received several questions from parents about purchasing chromebooks for their children to use while education is being offered in this home-based format. Please understand that you are not expected to purchase any additional resources. If digital learning is not appropriate or accessible to your family, teachers will happily provide paper information and resources.

However, if you are considering a purchase, here is something our Technology department encourages you to think about:

Every Chrome device (Chromebook, Chromebox, Chromebase, Chromebit) receives regular updates from Google until it reaches its Auto Update Expiration ("AUE") date. When a device reaches AUE, automatic software updates from Google will no longer be provided. This means that any device past its AUE date will be more of a security risk than it was before that date. The device will continue to function, but operating system and security updates are not guaranteed. When looking to purchase, it is prudent to look at the list of device models and dates to determine how much time is left before the device reaches its AUE date. New models of chromebooks have an AUE of 6.5 years. Here is the [list](#).

March 23 to 27 is Spring Break in Battle River, so school staff will not be available. They will all return to their duties on Monday, March 30. That's when you can expect assignments and learning resources for all school-age children to be shared. In the weeks ahead staff will continue to support student learning and assess their work.

As the COVID-19 numbers rise in our area and more restrictions continue to be put in place, I am reminded, once again, that the reason for this disruption is to help keep students, families, staff and communities safe and well. Take good care everyone. We will talk again after Spring Break!

Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools

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