



Wetaskiwin Regional Public School Division

Griffiths-Scott School

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"A Journey of Learning"



April 3, 2020

Dear Griffin Parents and Guardians;

Thank you to everyone for your incredible support to our staff over the last few weeks. Your emails and offers of support are greatly appreciated. We miss seeing our Griffins every day and we hope that all of you are safe and healthy.

This letter contains the information about how we are going to teach and help your students learn in different ways over the next few months. Our plan is called the Griffiths-Scott Learning Continuity Plan. The plan includes the steps that have been taken this week and provides information for the upcoming weeks and months. As we all know our world, and the information we receive seems to change daily and sometimes more often. So please review this plan that we have developed and understand that it may evolve and change as needed. We will keep you informed of any changes or developments if they occur. We understand that learning at home requires patience, guidance, support and effective communication among students, teachers and families. We are looking forward to working with our students in a new way and our motto of "A Journey of Learning" is certainly true for all of us!

Our GSS Learning Continuity Plan began this week as our staff returned from Spring Break. One of the first items on our plan was for teachers to connect with families. That included our teachers having phone conversations with parents and some teachers connecting with our junior high students through Google Classroom or email. The teachers really enjoyed speaking to parents and finding out more about how our students are doing at home! Thank you for taking time to speak to your child's teacher or calling back if they left you a message. It's important to keep the home and school communication strong, especially when we are all working together to support our students' learning while they are not with us every day. Thank you also to those families who completed the Google form re: technology access at home. That information is helpful to us as we prepare for your children's learning at home.

The second part of the GSS Learning Continuity Plan was the pickup of your children's personal items from school. Our system has worked very efficiently and effectively. It was another way of connecting with families but still following all of the Alberta Health Services guidelines to keep everyone healthy. Thank you again for your support and cooperation! Some teachers (especially in our younger grades) included packages of learning with the students'

items. The learning packages will be used in the next few weeks and the teachers will provide instructions to your child about the expectations for the work, just as they would do if the students were in their classrooms. So please keep those learning packages (if you received some) in a safe place and wait for further instructions from your child's teacher.

Speaking of classrooms, you will be hearing a lot more (and learning a lot more) about Google Classroom. That will be our online platform for delivery of lessons to our students. That is included in the third part of our GSS Learning Continuity Plan. The teachers have identified the learning outcomes from the curriculum that they will be focused on as they provide continued learning for your children. Some of the learning outcomes have not yet been taught in this school year or they may be reviewing outcomes that have been taught but require continued practice by students. The province has set the following guidelines:

- Students in K - 3 will focus on numeracy and literacy skills for an average of one hour a day. (Five hours a week.)
- Students in grades 4 - 6 will focus on numeracy and literacy skills for an average of one hour a day. (Five hours a week.) Teachers may include some Social Studies and Science topics within the literacy skill work.
- Students in grades 7 and 8 will focus on the four core classes of Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies for an average of two hours a day. (Ten hours a week.)

Our GSS Learning Continuity Plan will be a blended approach which includes online learning, some online instruction and some paper learning packages that were already sent home with your child's personal items.

- Each teacher has set up a Google classroom and invited their own students to "join their classroom". In the younger grades, parents may also be invited to join the classroom.
- The online learning may include programs such as IXL Math for numeracy, RAZ Kids or Read Theory for literacy. Those programs were already in place and your child will have their login information if they have already used it at school this year.
- Teachers can post assignments on their Google classrooms for their students to access.
- We have connected with all of our families and have information about their technology access and possible needs to support their children's learning.
- Some teachers sent home packages of learning with the students' items.
- The learning packages contained instructions and further instructions will be given by teachers through Google Classroom and emails.
- Teachers may assess student work in a variety of ways such as asking parents to take pictures of your child's work and emailing it to teachers, scanning it and emailing it if parents have access to that, etc.
- Communication between home and school will continue through online, emails and phone calls.

- As we continue down this new “Journey of Learning” pathway, students, families and staff are all learning new things!
- We know that learning new things takes time, practice and sometimes we make mistakes.
- Learning requires patience, guidance and support by everyone involved.
- Our plan is built on the principles that student learning will continue, teachers will continue to teach in partnership with our families and we will stay connected as Griffins.

Once again we would like to thank our families for all of your support. We are all on this GSS Journey of Learning together. Please contact us if you have any questions. Say hi to all of our students for us!

Griffiths-Scott School Staff