



York Catholic District School Board

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September 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Remote Learners,

The day we have all been working towards is approaching; the start of an online Catholic community of learners - YCDSB Remote Learning. We know that our students and staff will be collaborating in virtual learning environments with the same energy and excitement they exude in the halls of our schools. We thank our parent community for partnering with us as we work together to support the spiritual, emotional and intellectual development of our York Catholic students.

Please note the following announcements in anticipation of our start.

Revised First Day of School

Please be advised that elementary remote learning will not begin according to the previously revised staggered schedule communicated September 9, 2020. Please note the following revised start dates now in place for our on-line learners:

Mon. September 14	Tues. September 15	Wed. September 16
All FDK Students	Grades 1-3 Grades 4 to 6	Grades 7 and 8

Our apologies for the short notice of this change. We regret any inconveniences it may cause you. Staff continue to work diligently to prepare for our remote learners.

Communication from Remote Teachers

This weekend, our remote teachers continue to prepare their virtual learning environments for students and reach out to parents and guardians. Teachers are connecting with parents via email and telephone calls to share online classroom links and log in information. Please be patient with us as we reach out to our families - we are excited to welcome you. Kindly note that some teachers may be calling from a Blocked Caller ID number. Teachers will be sharing Google Classroom codes with you. Please do not share these codes with anyone as they are unique to specific remote classes.

Safe Arrival

As it is with students attending school for in-person learning, parents must report their child(ren)'s absence in remote learning to our Safe Arrival system. Please report absences using the Safe Arrival line: 1-855-856-7862. Please report absences prior to 8:30 am.

Remote Learning Schedule

The remote learning day begins at 9 am and ends at 3:30 pm. Remote learning teachers will be providing live synchronous instruction to students in the morning and in the afternoons. The rest of the school day will be devoted to blocks of asynchronous learning (where students work on assigned tasks with teaching staff available to answer questions) and independent work periods. These periods will allow for some flexibility in the remote learning schedule. Teachers will provide schedules to students on the first day and will advise in advance where schedules will change or are adjusted to meet the class learning needs.

Class Placements

As teachers have been connecting with our families, we are beginning to receive requests for classroom placements in the rare cases where students have not been placed with their home school class cohorts. The process for creating online classes is a complex task. At this time, we will make note of cases where students are not placed with their home school cohorts. We will look to make adjustments following the end of the first week of remote learning. Should a change be possible, your child's remote learning principal will reach out to you.

Technology & Distribution

Students can use any "smart" personal electronic device to access their remote learning (i.e., computer, laptop, tablet). Your child's home school principal sent out a survey to your school community to determine the tech device needs of remote learners. This coming week, principals will connect with parents of remote learners to distribute technology. Although every effort will be made to provide your child with the technology he/she needs, we may be faced with limitations in the number of devices we can provide.

Technical Support

Technical Support is available to assist parents having technical issues at home. Please visit the [YCDSBvle](#) website and submit a ticket if you are in need of technical support. One of our technicians will contact you and provide you with the assistance you require.

Creating a Positive Learning Environment

It is important to establish positive routines and structures at home in support of creating and maintaining a positive learning environment where the learner at home will be successful. Consider the following tips:

- Work in a well-lit, quiet space
- Remove clutter and distractions
- Be selective about learning materials
- Sit in a comfortable straight back chair
- Get a good night's rest and proper nutrition
- Manage time well, including scheduling breaks
- Be appropriately dressed and presentable for online learning.

Our remote teachers will spend time discussing these tips with our learners.

Contact Information

Our online learning community is now being supported by a team of administrators. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to them for assistance. We look forward to creating a faith-filled, Christ-centred online community of learners with you.

Yours in Catholic Education,

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FDK Principal**
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