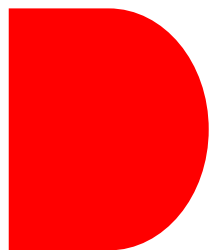
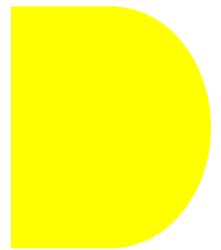


Building a Community of Learners



A Resource for Parents





Building a Community of Learners

A Message from Brenda . . .

Dear Living Sky Parents and Caregivers,

My name is Brenda Vickers, and I am the Director of Education for Living Sky School Division. Every day, I have the pleasure of working with a diverse team of people who are all dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the students they serve.

I remember when I first applied for a position with Living Sky. It was almost ten years ago now, when the school division was looking for a superintendent of human resources. I was living in Regina at the time, and a friend of mine sent me the job posting, as she knew I would be interested. When I went to Living Sky's website in an effort to find out more about the school division, I came across the system's organizational chart, and it really spoke to me.

Living Sky's organizational chart tells a story. It's different from most, because it's inverted. On our chart, the director and superintendents are not at the top, as they are on many charts. Instead, the senior leadership team and I are at the bottom. At the top of Living Sky's organizational chart are students and families. I love what this picture tells us about who we are and what we are trying to do together.

Whether directly – for example, from teacher to student, or indirectly, such as from superintendent to principal to teacher to student; whether as a bus driver, making that very important first student connection of the day, or as a tradesperson, helping to keep our buildings functioning well – **everyone** in the school division works to ultimately serve students and their families.

People who serve focus primarily on the growth and well-being of others. They put the needs of others first and help people, both staff and students, develop and perform as highly as possible. Those who serve acknowledge other people's perspectives, bring others in on decisions when appropriate and build a sense of community. This leads to higher engagement, more trust, and stronger relationships.

As a result of the COVID-19 PANDEMIC our work will be different; but, let me assure you that we will continue to serve our students. If anyone can make education work for students and families during this time, it will be this truly remarkable group of people who have inspired me countless times before.

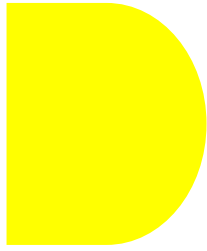
Our school division has worked with Dr. Jody Carrington several times in the past two years, and I want to share a quote from her that has really changed the way I approach my work and relationships. Dr. Carrington says that ***we are wired to do hard things, and we can do hard things much easier when we remember this: we are wired for connection.***

Please read the remainder of this document to learn more about what learning will look like moving forward and make the choices that are right for you and your family at this time. Remember:

- We will stay connected with you in whatever way works.
- There is no right or wrong decision; make the choice that works best for you and your family.
- Give yourselves permission to do what you can - that will be good enough.

With much respect,

Brenda



The Value of Learning Together

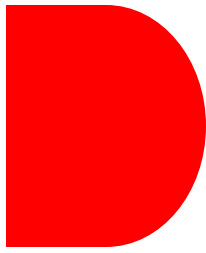
Parents are teachers, and home is a child's first and most important classroom

We want to honour parents as their child's first educators. We also want to reassure parents and caregivers that we do not expect them to be teachers in the formal sense of the word. Supporting ongoing learning at home does not mean covering all curriculum outcomes or having students sit for five hours a day *doing school*.

Learning takes many forms. Taking part in activities such as reading (and being read to), writing, connecting to the outside world, and giving back (helping out at home or preparing a meal for someone) all provide valuable learning opportunities for students.

Families will vary in the amount of time available to support student learning, and that's okay. We understand that there will be days when not a lot of formal learning will occur and days when more learning will take place.





Introduction to Our Learning Plan

On March 16, 2020 the Government of Saskatchewan announced an indefinite suspension of classes in all provincial schools in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Following this announcement, a provincial Response Planning Team was established to provide high level guidance for school divisions related to student learning while students will not be in school.

Living Sky School Division implemented its Pandemic Response Plan as a result of the declaration of a pandemic and the government's subsequent announcement that classes for students in Prek-12 education would be suspended. A component of this plan is connected to continuity of education services.

As a school division, we are always focused on student safety and student learning. This document details a Supplemental Learning Plan for Living Sky School Division's students while classes are suspended and is divided into two general sections:

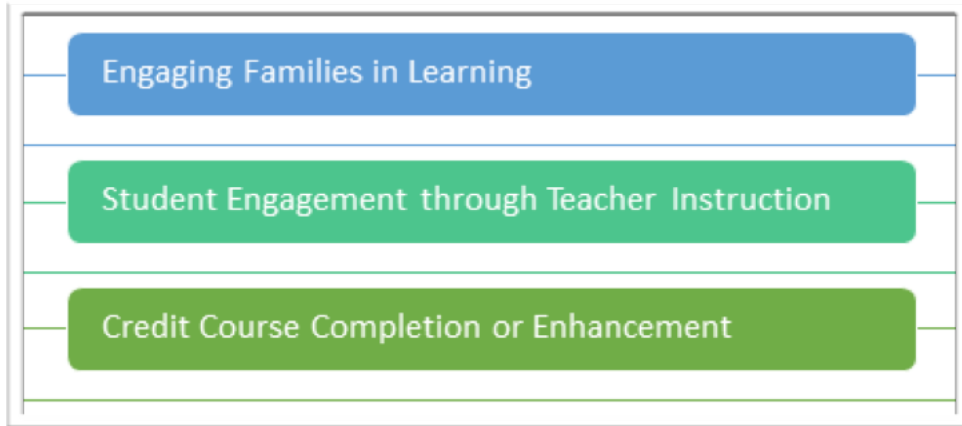
- Learning opportunities for students from prekindergarten to grade 9, and
- Learning opportunities for students in grades 10-12.

Living Sky School Division's Supplemental Learning Plan is consistent with the direction provided by the Government of Saskatchewan through the provincial Response Planning Team. From March 20-27, the Education sector paused to give school divisions an opportunity to put supplementary learning plans in place. On Monday, March 30, we'll be up and running again!

For information related to COVID-19, please visit www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus.



Three Key Areas of the Supplemental Learning Plan



Engaging Families in Learning

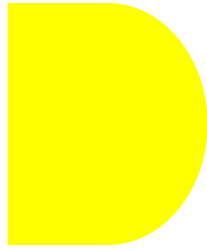
- Schools will reach out to families, and the Living Sky website will have some general links/ideas for learning.
- Prekindergarten – Grade 12 content on the website will change over time to keep content fresh and offer different ideas for student learning.

Student Engagement through Teacher Instruction

- Teachers will connect with their students beginning the week of March 30.
- Teachers will collaborate with colleagues to enhance the supplemental learning opportunities for students.

Credit Course Completion or Enhancement

- Students currently enrolled in high school credit courses will have the opportunity to continue their learning. Priority of supplemental learning opportunities will be in the core areas of English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.
- Teachers will continue to engage with all students enrolled in high school credit courses.



Supplemental Learning Options for PreK- Grade 9 Learning at the 10, 20 and 30 Levels

*For families seeking assistance from Living Sky School Division, two types of learning support are available, and neither one looks quite like school did just a couple of weeks ago. Parents may also decide on a hybrid model – working with their child’s teacher **and** selecting activities from the website. Please also know that families may choose to opt out of any or all supplementary learning opportunities.*

Option One – Working with Your Child’s Teacher

Prekindergarten

You can expect contact from your child’s teacher at some point between March 30 and April 2 to discuss how he or she can best support your family moving forward.

1. Teachers will need to know if your family has access to technology and the internet in order to receive learning materials.
2. Teachers will be providing families with information/ideas on how to continue to develop language, literacy and play and exploration skills. Prekindergarten is focused on what parents can do *with* children, rather than lessons delivered to children.
3. Teachers will commit to a start date so that parents know when to expect to receive initial information.
4. Parents will be invited to contact the teacher should they have questions or concerns. Your teacher is available to help you!
5. For students who have individualized learning plans or goals in specific areas, parents will receive information from their teachers about how to support the goals at home. Educational assistants and student services professionals such as speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists and counsellors are also available to help out and will post information and activities on Living Sky’s website.
6. Your teacher will be in regular contact with you and your child and will arrange an appropriate time to check in.

Learning Tips

For Parents and Caregivers

Assist, support, encourage and care for your children in their learning and well-being.

Know that learning happens in many ways – through play, online, in books. It can sit in a subject area or be found in the world around you; learning is everywhere.

Don’t hesitate to reach out and ask for what you may need.

Take care of your own health.

For Students

Keep a list of things you want to discuss with your teacher.

Do your best and have fun learning in a new way.

Take pride in being a reader, writer, mathematician, and lifelong learner.

Take care of your own health.

Kindergarten to Grade 9

You can expect contact from your child's teacher at some point between March 30 and April 2 to discuss how he or she can best support your child's learning moving forward.

1. Teachers will need to know if your family has access to technology and the internet in order to receive learning materials. If not, what is the best way for your family to receive learning materials?
2. Your teacher will be in regular contact with you.
3. Supplemental learning opportunities will provide students with cross-curricular learning activities that emphasize the importance of literacy, numeracy, critical and creative thinking, and problem solving.
4. Teachers will commit to a start date so that parents know when to expect to receive initial information.
5. Teachers will invite parents to contact them should they have questions or concerns. Your teacher is available to help you!
6. Your teacher will provide you with information about how to support goals at home that can be managed outside of the school setting for students who have individualized plans or goals in specific areas. Educational assistants and student services professionals such as speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists and counsellors are also available to help out and will post information and activities on Living Sky's website.
7. Your teacher will provide feedback for your child as supplemental learning activities are completed. Supplemental learning progress will be documented and included in each student's cumulative file.

In addition, for students in grades 7 to 9

- These students may have several teachers who will collaborate to deliver engaging learning activities that will encompass multiple subject areas.

In addition, for students in grade 9

- In instances where students are enrolled in distance learning, their classes will carry on, should the students choose to continue.
- For those enrolled in grade 10 credits, please see below: Learning at the 10, 20 and 30 Levels.

We encourage students to have fun as much as possible, unplugged. Do your best; some screen time is fine!

Soon, you will have the opportunity to reconnect with your teachers, other school staff and friends.

Learning at the 10, 20 and 30 Levels

Most students who wish to continue in a course will fall into one or more of the following three categories:

1. Students who wish to continue learning in a specific subject area with the support of a teacher;
2. Students who are missing specific outcomes and wish to gain that understanding/skill prior to moving on to another grade or to post-secondary learning, and/or
3. Students who wish to improve the grades they received as of March 13, 2020.

Learning Tips

For High School Students

With the support of parents or caregivers, make a decision about the courses in which you will participate.

Do your best.

Take care of your own health.

What to expect

1. Students will receive a survey during the week of March 30 to determine which classes they would like to continue.
2. The division will prioritize providing support and resources for teachers to deliver the core classes of ELA, Science, Math and Social Sciences. Teachers will be provided access to any existing LSSD Virtual courses. The division will also facilitate collaboration between teachers to develop online course materials.
3. In instances where students are enrolled in distance learning, through LSSD virtual or outside distance education classes, their classes will carry on, should students choose to continue.
4. Efforts will be made to supply technology devices to students as needed.

Option Two – Living Sky Website Activities

- As teachers are preparing their lessons and communication plans, parents and families may access some general curriculum-related activities and supports for learning at home beginning on Monday, March 30.
- These ideas will not require additional materials that you wouldn't normally have at home.
- Website activities can be found at www.lskysd.ca (click on the *Keep on Learning* image).



Family Resources

Living Sky School Division has created resources in several areas and will continue to refresh these supplemental learning opportunities.

You can access the resources by clicking on this link:

<https://www.lskysd.ca/apps/pages/LearningOnline>



Learning Online
PreK - Kindergarten
Literacy
Numeracy
STEAM
Wellness
Diverse Learners
Teens

Resources are also available from the Ministry of Education:

[Math at Home](#)

[Literacy at Home](#)



Moving Forward

Week One – Preparing and Connecting!

Monday, March 30

- Principals and vice principals will reconnect with school staff following the *pause* mandated by the provincial government.

Tuesday and Wednesday, March 31 and April 1

- Staff will spend time learning new technologies and becoming familiar with Living Sky's learning plan and resources.
- Teachers will have time to collaborate with other teachers and touch base with support staff regarding students requiring support.
- School-based staff will connect with families.
- This week, a survey will go out to high school students to determine which classes they would like to continue.

Thursday, April 2

- Student learning begins again in a new way!

Week Two – Continuing to Learn!

- As teachers, parents, caregivers and students, we will continue to adapt, connect and learn together.

"Connecting home and school makes us a great community of learners!"

Things that are Not Cancelled during the Pandemic

Remember to stay positive!

Getting outside **NOT** cancelled

Music **NOT** cancelled

Family **NOT** cancelled

Reading **NOT** cancelled

Singing **NOT** cancelled

Laughing **NOT** cancelled

Hope **NOT** cancelled



unsinkable