

Dear families,

The last few weeks has presented challenging times for families across the Province of Ontario and the world. As I watch what is taking place around us, I understand that many of you may have questions or concerns or even feel uncertain.

I know that all of us are making sacrifices and working together as a Catholic community to get through these challenging and unprecedented times in an attempt to flatten the curve of this pandemic.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank the front-line staff in our community who are taking care of us and providing essential services like medical, policing, access to food and all the other supports that keep us well.

I understand that you are concerned about the education of your children during this uncertain time, as I am, as a parent with a child in our system.

I can assure you, that the Board and staff are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that student learning will resume as soon as possible. I want to underscore that we take our direction from the Ministries of Education and Health. The Board and administration have been meeting regularly via video and teleconference to ensure that a plan for the *Continuance of Learning* is being developed and implemented. This plan will guide our staff until this crisis is resolved.

We are also in daily conversations with all levels of government and are working through many of the questions that are of concern to you, ranging from graduating students to our earliest learners, and how the needs of all can best be met using a distance education model.

We are in the early stages of this plan and will have more information to share with families soon. Until then, we encourage everyone to visit the Ministry of Education's '[Learn at Home](#)' online learning program and [TVO ILC Open House](#).

I strongly encourage you to frequently visit our website for the latest updates and information including links to COVID-19 information, a student learning page and updated departmental contacts.

I want to reaffirm our commitment to communication and ask that you keep our students, staff and community in your prayers. I know that together, we will persevere and continue to lift each other up.

God bless,

Rick Petrella
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board