



# York Catholic District School Board

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## *Office of the Director of Education Ab Falconi*

June 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that this communication finds you and your families in good health. It is hard to believe our school communities have been on this distance learning journey together for almost three months now. What an extraordinary journey it has been! While it has been a stressful time and there have been numerous challenges along the way, there have also been many wonderful examples of how our students, staff and families have risen to the occasion and continued to exhibit the York Catholic spirit.

As we enter the home stretch of the 2019-2020 school year; there are a number of updates we wanted to share with you.

### **Resource Guide to Help Combat Anti-Black Racism**

Recent events in Canada and the United States have ignited discussion and action focused on the experiences of anti-Black racism. The work needed to dismantle anti-Black racism is complicated, and differentiated depending on our own identities. It will require us to be committed to supporting each other and holding each other accountable.

With this in mind, we have curated resources to assist our Catholic Education Community as we work collaboratively to address individual and systemic racism in all its forms. [ABR Guiding Resources](#)

We will continue our commitments, which include ongoing collaboration with our Curriculum department, Religion Coordinator, our Human Rights and Equity advisor, the Human Rights and Equity advisory committee, along with continuously looking to cultivate and foster relationships with our Black student initiative groups, students, staff, and community. We also commit to examining and dismantling our own systemic racism.

We will continue to share our journey of allyship as accomplices in the work for Justice, with the inevitable ups and the downs, so that we can remain accountable and steadfast in our work to combat anti-Black racism.

### **Child Care Centres**

Last week the Ministry of Education announced that Child Care Centres in Ontario can reopen. This is good news for many York Catholic families. As a school board, we are working with the Ministry and our child care partners to determine when the Child Care Centres in our schools can safely resume operation. Details will be shared with families shortly.

## **Summer Learning Programs**

A few weeks ago, Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, announced provincial plans for enhanced summer learning programs that will help an increased number of students earn credits through summer school. York Catholic has responded to the need with a wide range of summer learning opportunities, including Elementary Learning Programs, Secondary Summer School and Adult ESL Classes.

Registrations are still open but spots are filling up quickly. You can visit <https://ce.ycdsb.ca/> for information or click on one of the links below.

Elementary Summer Programs <https://ce.ycdsb.ca/elementary-programs/>  
Including [Leap Ahead grade 1 - 5.pdf](#)

Secondary Summer Programs <https://ce.ycdsb.ca/secondary-programs/>  
Including [Homework Helper Flyer.pdf](#)

## **Picking up student belongings from schools**

By now you should have received an email from your child's principal with details on when personal belongings can be picked up from their school. This is also the time to return any school-owned items you have at home, such as textbooks and library resources.

Technology devices and SEA technology that was borrowed to allow distance learning should not be returned during this visit – a separate process will be developed for those items. If you haven't received an email from your school about picking up belongings, please contact the principal.

## **Last Day of School**

As directed by the Ministry of Education, after schools closed and distance learning began, all remaining PA Days for the 2019-2020 school year were converted to instructional days. This means the PA Days originally scheduled for June 25 (secondary) and June 26 (elementary and secondary) will be instructional days. Teachers will have office hours on these days and Google Classroom/D2L Brightspace will continue to be available.

The last day of school is Friday, June 26.

## **Report Cards**

Every student will receive a final report card. As we know, the Ministry of Education has stated that students should not be disadvantaged due to these extraordinary circumstances. As a result, final marks will reflect work completed prior to March 13, as well as any work completed after April 6 that *serves to improve the student's mark*.

The final mark will not be lower than that which was earned prior to March 13. Teachers will include comments on the final report cards. Comments will focus on significant strengths demonstrated and possible next steps for the student. Information on how to access report cards will be shared soon.

## **Grade 12 Transcripts**

Grade 12 students who need a copy of their transcript should look under the Students tab on their school website and click on the "Course Drops/Transcripts" link to submit a digital request form.

This has been a challenging time for many within our York Catholic family, and I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for your continued support. I hope that over the coming days, you can find a moment to center yourself in prayer for our YCDSB community. A link on our website you may find helpful is the one for [Daily Mass with His Eminence Cardinal Collins](#).

Wishing your families continued health and wellbeing in the days ahead.

Yours in Catholic Education,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ab Falconi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ab Falconi  
Director of Education