



York Catholic District School Board

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October 7, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update regarding our Elementary learning model. Given the various operational and staffing challenges faced in the current remote learning model, and the need to find a solution that is sustainable for the remainder of the school year, a decision has been made in the best interest of all elementary students.

After careful consideration, a decision has been made to reorganize class structures, allowing all elementary students to be a part of their home school. This new hybrid model blends face to face learners with remote learners into the same class under the direction of the home school classroom teacher.

Please note that while most classes will consist of an in-person teacher with both remote and in-class face to face students, some schools will have a few entirely remote classes in order to accommodate the large number of remote learners.

This hybrid model has numerous benefits including keeping remote learners in their home school with their friends, maintaining physical distancing in classrooms, and offering a seamless transition from in-class learning to remote learning or vice-versa. We no longer require specific re-entry dates throughout the school year. If parents wish to transition their child from face-to-face to remote learning, they may do so at any time. Principals will accommodate parent requests for their child to move from remote to face to face learning where there is enough space in the classroom to maintain physical distancing.

The new hybrid classrooms will start on Wednesday, October 14, 2020. School administration will be reorganizing classes in the coming days and will notify parents of the class placement for their child(ren). If your child is a remote learner, the new classroom teacher will reach out to you directly on Tuesday, October 13 to provide your child's login information for the virtual learning environment.

In order to provide a smooth transition to this new model, on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 **all** York Catholic Elementary Schools will be **closed** to students. We understand that this is very short notice for parents and apologize for the inconvenience and disruption this may cause. This day will be used by staff to complete the necessary preparations to welcome face to face and remote learners to their classrooms. On this day, October 13, students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 wishing to participate in remote learning activities, can visit YCDSB's [Remote Learning Student Hub](#) on our website.

As in any regular school year, students will first be assigned to the appropriate grade level and then to a specific teacher (for their new 'class'). This class, made up of both face to face and remote learners, will be taught as usual by their assigned teacher (remote learners joining daily via Google Classroom). Students will enjoy a normal classroom experience, regardless of their chosen learning format. It is our firm belief that this format will better serve our students' educational needs, re-establish links with classmates and promote positive mental health.

Once again, I would like to offer my heartfelt gratitude to all our students, families and staff for their patience and understanding during these ever-changing times.

Yours in Catholic Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Battista". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Battista
Interim Director