



Brenda Blancher
Director of Education

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Good Afternoon Grand Erie Families,

This is Brenda Blancher, Director of Education at the Grand Erie District School Board. I'm reaching out today with another update on how we're dealing with COVID-19.

First and foremost, I hope you are doing well and taking good care of yourself. It's important for you to know that everyone at Grand Erie, especially our teachers, our principals and the rest of our school support staff, greatly misses our students. We care deeply for each and every one of you and this separation has been difficult on everyone.

Second, I want to provide you with an important update on next steps when it comes to the continuation of learning. Next week, we anticipate Ontario Premier Doug Ford will announce that the province-wide school closures currently in place will be extended. For how long, we don't know. But, I promise to update you as soon as we get that information.

I also want to assure you that Grand Erie staff have been working hard this week to create a plan to ensure student learning continues after this initial two-week closure. What this plan looks like is still being developed with our partners at the Ministry of Education and other public school boards around the province. As I'm sure you can understand, switching to a completely different model for both teaching and learning takes time, but we are diligently finalizing those details. Once our work is complete, we will communicate it with you. As you can imagine, our amazing teachers will play a vital role moving forward. And, I'm certain they are as eager as our students are to get started in the next week or two.

As noted in my [message on Monday](#), we have a number of learning resources for students on our website at granderie.ca. These resources include the Ministry of Education's [Learn at Home](#) platform as well as [Literacy and Numeracy Guides](#) developed for Grand Erie elementary and secondary students. There is also a mental health and well being resource called [Talking to Children About COVID-19](#).

This is a challenging time as there are so many unknowns for all of us. I want to sincerely thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we work to find solutions for our students.

I look forward to updating you again next week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Blancher".

Director of Education