



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.

This afternoon, Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Education Stephen Lecce announced that all publicly-funded schools in the province will remain closed to students until at least May 4 due to COVID-19. This includes all Grand Erie elementary and secondary schools.

While schools are closed, learning will continue for all Grand Erie students. Since the first COVID-19 school closures were announced, learning at home has been family-led. Beginning in the near future, learning from home will be teacher-led, with minimum requirements for each student, outlined by grade by the Ministry of Education.

Grand Erie started preparing for this next phase of learning yesterday as teachers began reaching out to students to determine the tools and resources available at home, including internet access and devices. Grand Erie recognizes that in many areas of the board, there is very limited access to the internet, if any at all. Collecting this data will help teachers design the appropriate materials for all students to be successful. This could mean using online tools, emailing information or other ways of distributing materials to students.

In the coming days, you will receive more information regarding next steps for student learning. Until then, we have a number of resources available on our website, including Literacy and Numeracy guides for [elementary](#) and [secondary](#) students, a link to the Ministry of Education's [Learn at Home](#) platform and [weekly literacy, numeracy and physical education tasks](#) for elementary students.

For the latest updates, visit: www.granderie.ca. You can also contact the Board via email at info@granderie.ca or by phone at 519-756-6301 or Toll Free: 1-888-548-8878.

Sincerely,

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

Director of Education