

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that you and your families are doing well and continuing to be safe during this unusual time with the COVID 19 pandemic. This was not the Spring Break that any of us had planned, but I hope that you have managed to find some time for relaxation and enjoyment, despite the challenges of physical distancing and self-isolation. As you have been hearing, on March 17, Dr. Bonnie Henry, our Provincial Health Officer, suspended in-class K-12 education in the Province of BC. This order is part of the response to the current COVID-19 pandemic gripping the globe. Information has been shared through the media, social media, and connections with all parents across BC.

Since this announcement, parents/guardians have had many questions about what will be happening in terms of the education of their children. I want to encourage you to go to <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/education-covid-19> which has a wealth of information and a link to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's). As mentioned in the letter from Superintendent Shelley Green on March 26th, school will look different moving forward and we ask for your patience as we work through what it will look like for students at Vic High.

Today our school staff will begin the process of establishing how course content and learning opportunities will be delivered to students without them being present in our building. This will take some time for staff to organize with many factors to consider; some staff may be ready to begin course delivery sooner than others. Again, we ask for your patience as we do our planning. During the first two weeks, you are encouraged to follow the district learning plans for grade 9-12 which have a focus on literacy, numeracy, mental health and well-being, as well as passion projects. These learning plans can be found on the district website www.sd61.bc.ca Many students may have left their materials and personal belongings at school before leaving for the break. We will be working on a schedule for students/guardians to be able to come into the school to pick up necessary materials and personal items, hopefully during the week of April 6th - 10th. We will be following the orders of the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, and anticipate that, much like many businesses, we will practice physical distancing, limit the number of people in the school building, and have a cleaning protocol for all areas that people touch or enter. Please stay tuned for more details on this process. At this time, we ask that you do not come to the school until a plan is in place and has been communicated to you.

We understand this is a tremendously stressful time for both parents and students. Please know that our Vic High students and families are on our minds, and we look forward to keeping our community connected as much as possible moving forward. Vic High students are socially intelligent and will undoubtedly miss being in classes with their friends and teachers, however, we also know that our students and staff are resilient and will find a way to forge ahead during this unusual time. We look forward to continuing to support our students and families.

Thank you and take care,

Victoria High School