

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Hello KCS Families,

The time that we are in continues to be extraordinary. We had a Student Support Services team meeting yesterday morning and I shared some of the opening lines of Proverbs 16, *"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. The Lord has made everything for its purpose."* These are anxious times and we need to lean on Him throughout. God has a plan in all of this and I believe we will be awestruck as we learn what His plan is.

Since the provincial announcement to suspend brick and mortar education 8 days ago, my time, aside from Sunday, has been spent in meetings and in communications. Meetings with SCSBC, meetings with regional independent school leaders, meetings with our leadership team, and meetings with many of you. Since Friday, our leadership team has become more and more involved in these meetings as well. I would like to personally thank all of our school leaders for giving up much of their Spring Break to ensure we flourish in the months ahead.

Our staff are also on Spring Break. To launch our new method of living and learning well, we need time to create with staff. For the week of March 30th - April 3rd, our staff will all be working full time to prepare the program that we will run from April 6th through to June 19th. Spring Break for students will be extended by one week. This is the common approach amongst our provincial Christian Schools. The school district may even commence later. We want to be deliberate and intentional to ensure we can serve every child well. The school will start on April 6th with a school-wide chapel and time of prayer. Our entire community will be invited to this event (virtually).

We remain committed to the Bold Goal that we have already communicated to you, which is

Kelowna Christian School and our awesome team of teachers and support staff are committed to providing the instructional leadership, materials, and planning needed by our students to not merely stay busy during the rest of the year, but to extend their skills, learning competencies, and relationships, so they are ready for the next year whether that be in the next grade or post-secondary. KCS will

continue to partner with you to do Christian education well.

To meet this Bold Goal, here is what we can now share:

1. For the foreseeable future, learning will not happen within the walls of Kelowna Christian School but will take place at home with the school's guidance and leadership. Learning will happen from where your children are (i.e. home, grandparents).
2. Our front office staff will continue to work from Kelowna Christian School. The phones will be answered, but any visits to the campuses will need to be booked in advance. This protects our staff and the greater community.
3. From Kindergarten-Grade 9, our initial goal is for each homeroom teacher to connect with each child one on one at least 2 times per week. There will be regular classroom and community connections.
4. From Grade 10-12, the core courses will continue with classroom video instruction from the classroom teacher, group sharing, and one on one support. All KCS teachers will have daytime office hours for deeper connections.
5. While school may return to live and in-person instruction before the end of the year, we are building our plan through to June 19th.
6. There will still be daily timetables for all students,, but they will be more flexible, especially in the younger grades. The timetables will be shorter, and will allow for learning and connection options for families should families choose to avail themselves. We recognize that you are families, and often have more than one child. We recognize that the availability to work with your children varies from home to home.
7. Our Student Support Services Team has been hard at work and we seek to ensure that every child continues to be successful at KCS. Our educational assistants will continue to have one on one connection with the children and the families that they work with.
8. There will be a structured time next week where students and parents can pick up supplies they need from school. For example, we will need to hand grade 6 Chromebooks out to the students. More info to come.
9. Our staff will be working with the understanding that not all families have printers. They also understand that many of our homes have multiple children in a single division.
10. In order to plan well for each of our families ' successful learning experience at home, we will be asking for more information to help us understand your availability, resources (i.e. wifi, devices, learning spaces), and needed supports. More information will be sent on this soon.

WHAT WILL EDUCATION LOOK LIKE

Education needs to occur day to day, not month to month. Data also suggests we should not overload our children with information, but also that children need structure and routine. We seek to simplify, prioritize, and allow flexibility for learning, within the context of each division.

In all divisions, we seek to ensure the following continues to occur well. In partnership with our core values, consider these to be the pillars of our next 3 months to ensure excellent education:

1. Literacy (defined hours per week per grade)
2. Numeracy (defined hours per week per grade)
3. Faith Formation & Discipleship, including
 1. Chapels
 2. Scheduled devotional time
 3. Service
4. Inquiry, including
 1. student choice
 2. family activities
 3. demonstrations of learning
 4. tiered levels of what needs to be done (level 1) and what is provided for enrichment (level 2 and 3)
5. Community/Care Building
 1. supporting families along with students
 2. creating activities that promote family and community
6. Elective Choices for Students and Families: Built with our Core Values in mind, examples may include:
 1. Music Composition
 2. Coding
 3. Foods Instruction
 4. Art
 5. Applied Skills
 6. Maker Spaces
 7. Robotics
 8. Individualized Sport Skill Development
 9. Health and Wellness
 10. Genius Hour
 11. Discipleship

A NEW EDUCATIONAL WEBSITE!

To do this well, we are setting up a new website: KCSlearns.ca

You will be able to access archived videos from our teaching team, links to morning greetings from homeroom teachers, lessons from teachers, links to our chapels, enrichment challenges, videos from staff sharing areas of expertise, shared documents for classes and small groups and so much more. This takes much work, so we hope to have it operational by April 6th.



More information to come on this.

LOOKING AHEAD

March 30th and March 31st are filled with staff meetings to add enrichment and detail to our learning plan. Sometime before the end of the first week, your child's campus leader will send out the detailed plan of what education will look like for your child from day to day and week to week. For those in elementary and lower middle school, you will also hear more from your child's homeroom teacher next week, sharing how community and togetherness will continue apart.

Our staff are excited about this new challenge. Our staff see this as an opportunity to build community and family care in new ways. Our staff reply to me with a simple, "We can do this!". They are excited.

For your elementary children, I am committed to still providing a kinder surprise near their birthday. While some restrictions may make it impossible, I will drive to each home provided BC allows me to.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Campbell", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Campbell
Head of School



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