



# EMERY COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

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April 2, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

I hope that you are all safe and healthy as we continue to face these challenging times.

On March 31 you received letters from the Minister of Education and the Director of the TDSB stating that, due to the continued spread of COVID-19, all publicly-funded schools in Ontario, including those at the TDSB, will remain closed to students until Monday, May 4, 2020. Both letters are attached for your information.

Despite the challenges presented by the current situation, we remain committed to supporting student success as we prepare to re-establish teacher-led learning on Monday, April 6. Part of this process has involved reaching out to our students to insure that they have access to computer devices and to the internet at home. I want to thank you for your patience as I know that you have been requested to provide this information both through a board wide survey and by individual teachers. The TDSB is currently developing a plan to get computers and internet access into the hands of the students who need them. I will share an update as soon as the information about this process is available.

Beginning on April 6, students can expect to receive three hours of work per week for each of their courses. In the meantime, we are asking each and every student to log in to their TDSB email account to check for messages from their teachers. Instructions for logging in to student email and a [Video Guide](#) are attached to this message. Most teachers will be using platforms like Google Classroom and BrightSpace to work with their students. Instructions for logging in to these platforms are also attached to this message. Teachers who are not using these platforms will communicate directly with parents and students to share the strategies that they will be using.

We recognize that our students are facing many unique challenges as a result of the developing COVID-19 situation and will do our best to accommodate individual needs and circumstances. I know that our graduating students are particularly concerned about completing their diploma requirements as well as meeting university and college admission timelines. The Minister of Education has stated: "No student will have their graduation compromised by COVID-19 and the Ministry of Education continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to ensure that there will be no barriers to accessing post-secondary education". The graduation requirement to complete 40 hours of community involvement is suspended for this school year and the literacy test requirement will be waived for students graduating this year.

Please feel free to email me at [maria.palermo@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:maria.palermo@tdsb.on.ca) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Maria Palermo  
Principal