

April 1st, 2020



To York Memorial Students, Parents and Guardians,

I hope that when you read this letter that it finds you safe and well!

As many of you may have heard, yesterday the Ontario Minister of Education announced that following the advice of Ontario Public Health that the earliest schools will reopen is Monday, May 4th, 2020.

What does this mean for YMCI students?

YMCI staff have been hard at work planning along with administration and support staff to ensure that all YMCI students have the continued opportunity to learn and prepare for their next stage of education , whether that is at post-secondary or the next grade level.

Teachers have also been instructed to connect with students to see how they are coping during this isolation and to also find out whether students have access to personal devices such as tablets, laptops, and desktops in addition to internet. While as a school we are confident about our ability to continue to deliver the Ontario and College Board curriculum through platforms such as Google Classroom, we need to ensure that all students who currently do not have access to an internet enabled device are given that opportunity to receive one.

The TDSB sent out the following letter to parents on March 29th, 2020 .

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you know, the closure of all Ontario schools, including those at the TDSB, will be extended beyond the originally scheduled return date of April 6, 2020. At this point in time, the Government of Ontario has not yet announced how long the closure will be extended, but when we receive this information, we will let you know as soon as possible.

In the meantime, and as indicated in the [letter](#) you received from the Director of Education earlier this week, the TDSB is moving ahead with plans to connect teachers with students and/or their parents/guardians beginning Monday, April 6, 2020.

To help students stay connected and to support remote learning, the TDSB is lending internet-enabled devices to families who do not have access to devices. As a result, we need some additional information from our families.

We would kindly ask that you click the link below and fill out the following form as soon as possible:

[Device and Internet Availability Form](#)

Once again, we thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. We are working to provide additional information and next steps in the coming days.

Thank you.

Students/Parents/Guardians, I am asking for your help. If you are aware of a student/family who is not receiving emails from the school and/or board emails, can you please speak with

them over the phone and relay this important information regarding devices and internet availability to them. It is really important that they are able to fill out the Device and Internet Ability Form, whether by asking a friend or neighbour to help them or simply forwarding their name and updated contact phone number to myself at donna.drummond@tdsb.on.ca. As stated at the beginning of this letter, YMCI staff are reaching out to students to ascertain this information, however your additional support and perhaps greater knowledge/insight will help ensure that no child will fall through the cracks.

By **April 5^h**, you will receive further information in regard to the YMCI schedule for supporting students through virtual platforms starting April 6th. This will also be posted on the school website which you are encouraged to visit frequently as it is continuously being updated with very important information.

In the meantime, thank you (as always) for your continued patience and co-operation. Let's continue to support one another to ensure learning opportunities for all students.

Warmest regards

Donna Drummond
Principal - York Memorial Collegiate Institute