



**WEST COUNTRY OUTREACH
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To our families, parents, guardians ~ A letter from Alva

It would be an understatement to say how much our staff is missing our school atmosphere, the energy of learning and daily life, and especially “our kids”. We miss the students’ stories, weekend updates, excuses for not doing homework, pictures of new puppies and new relationships, daily jokes, Blue Chair tech-free talks, Monday assemblies, hugs, hello’s, modules done and marked, signing in, PE walks, exam stress, tears, laughter, and love of learning and each other. We miss your kids, and we will do everything we can to ensure they continue their learning and feel supported by our staff.

This morning all school administrators attended a Google Meet (video conference) with senior leaders from Wolf Creek Public Schools where the draft Learning Support Plan was shared. Prior to Spring Break commencing, I would like to share some of those details from the meeting so you are made aware of some of the plan’s elements.

This plan has been designed to support school staff in implementing supports for students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Alberta Education directed school boards to develop a learning support plan and implement it in order to support teachers, students and parents during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not an education crisis, but it is a provincial pandemic and a response to a declared state of emergency which has the potential to last many weeks or months.

The Learning Support Plan is a list of resources and teaching approaches that can be utilized from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 to support teachers upon returning to work after Spring Break. This will be a new delivery model where technology will be utilized to connect with students and parents. This might include a home computer, Chromebook, or student’s cell phone. This will involve the same personalization of learning, but through a remote delivery system.

Near the end of Spring Break, I will be receiving a copy of the finalized Learning Support Plan and will also be receiving direction from Central Office staff regarding the implementation of this plan for our school and throughout the school division.

Alberta Education has assured all students, parents and school boards that their intent is that all students will progress, with the ongoing support of teachers. All students who access this support are expected to proceed to the next grade level and receive credentialing for their specific subjects they are presently enrolled within.

Our district leaders are expecting additional directions and communication from Alberta Education in the coming week around learning and assessment measures which will be communicated to all of us as we embark on this new learning journey. Parents can expect additional communication from the School Division office during the week of March 30 - April 3. Given the timing of the March Break this will allow student learning supports to be rolled out in an orderly, consistent manner.

Until then, please know that we are motivated to learn new and innovative ways to share learning outcomes with your kids, and that we will be ready to share this new approach following spring break. And our students should feel the same!

On behalf of our entire staff, and with great affection to our students and families

Alva Holliday, Principal