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Education Built on Relationships

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Dear School Families,

We hope you had a blessed Easter as we celebrated Christ's resurrection. We also hope you found social distancing ways to connect with extended family and friends. The circumstances we find ourselves in have created a situation where Manitoba Education is providing new guidelines based on decisions that are evolving regularly. We expect that this will continue, and we assure you that regular updates will be provided as information becomes available.

As you know, classroom learning has been suspended indefinitely for this school year and remote learning is to continue. Thank you to those of you that have provided feedback, both as affirmation and to express concerns, about family learning experiences to date. We are trying to be sensitive to this demanding and challenging situation by providing a balanced approach to remote learning.

This letter gives you the latest information received from the province as well as Linden Christian's approach, which meets and, in most cases, exceeds provincial expectations.

At this point, we do not know when classes will resume. We do, however, know that this decision will be made by the Minister of Education as advised by the Chief Public Health Officer.

Manitoba Education has provided several guiding principles and learning expectations. Linden Christian has embraced them with our mission, vision and core values in mind. The principles and expectations include:

- 1) Learning and assessment will continue for all students.
- 2) No student will be held back due to the pandemic. Students on track to graduate will graduate. Students will engage in recovery learning as needed.
- 3) Families and the school are to work together to ensure student achievement and success while planning for individual student needs and circumstances as needed.
- 4) Students are expected to continue remote learning and complete assigned work.
- 5) Teachers will facilitate at-home learning to support students with online platforms or printed materials.

- 6) Beyond delivering daily instructional materials and preparing for assessments, our teachers will have regular, personal communication with students, parents, caregivers, and other partners in support of student achievement.
- 7) Teachers will continue to set goals for students and assess progress.
- 8) All students will receive final grades and a report card in June. Reporting of final grades will follow Manitoba Provincial Report Card Policy and Guidelines. Report cards will also indicate whether the student will require recovery learning.

Your child(ren)'s commitment to online learning and appropriate engagement now may eliminate the future requirement for learning recovery.

Because the school building must remain closed, a safe plan to pick up personal items and learning materials has been developed. You will receive an invitation, along with directions for picking up your child(ren)'s personal items, via the School Booking System (typically used to book Triad Conferences) within the next few days.

Given that LCS is a K-12 school, we have the full range of learning expectations and principles from the province to consider. Here is information related to each division of the school:

ON-LINE AND SUPPORTED LEARNING FOR EARLY YEARS (K-4)

We know that EY students, particularly in Kindergarten through Grade 2 are less independent learners than our students in Grade 3 and 4, and we understand this requires greater commitment and support from parents. LCS is blessed to have an incredibly supportive parent community and your efforts are appreciated.

Please understand that you are asked to do the best that you can. Some days this will be easier than others. In the midst of setting routines, allow room for flexibility and spontaneity in your child(ren)'s learning. For example, look for opportunities to promote learning within the context of daily life.

Areas of Focused Learning:

Literacy (priority)	30 minutes*	DAILY reading and writing opportunities.
Numeracy (priority)	30 minutes*	DAILY building of skills in Math understanding.
Social Studies, Science and Health	20 minutes*	These are often embedded in the writing activities or other activities that your child might be encouraged to do. The teacher will include lessons in these areas to add interest and engagement, selecting from essential curricular content remaining in the school year.
PhysEd, French and Music	20 minutes*	<p><u>These classes are NOT scheduled daily</u>, but rather follow a monthly calendar that highlights the lessons from these subject areas. Of course, being active should be a priority and you can encourage a minimum of 45 minutes a day where your child engages in activity that brings up their heart rate.</p> <p>These teachers will be sending out their lessons embedded in a document that will give you a month's glance at activities and lessons provided by the teacher. Each Monday you will get a reminder to check the calendar.</p>
Library		Suggestions and ideas to creatively listen to stories may be provided.
Biblical Instruction		<p>This may be embedded in some of the writing and research activities or as part of a morning greeting and Bible story. Know that your child's teacher is praying for your child.</p> <p>Bible verse memory is a valued effort as scripture can provide great comfort when it is put to memory and in the heart.</p>

*Guideline for time spent may vary from Kindergarten to Grade 4

Delivery Model for Learning:

Daily Email	This daily email from your classroom teacher is a greeting and may include a video. It will be the first connecting point for you as a parent. It may redirect you to a plan for that day or to a document that shares the plan for that week.
Websites	<p>Shared documents, blogs, websites and Google Classroom: Teachers use incredible ingenuity and creativity to develop their systems for reaching out to parents and students.</p> <p>Please understand that the older students (Grades 3 and 4) are more independent learners and that they can use their <i>wingsmail</i> accounts to access Google Classroom information. In younger grades, the contact with the students is more dependent on parental support and assistance. However, they too will need to use their <i>wingsmail</i> accounts to access the google meets.</p>

<p>Work Packages</p>	<p>Many teachers have distributed paper packages that were prepared initially for a two-week home learning plan. Some teachers may choose to continue to hand out work packages and other materials to support the learning. As noted on page 2, the pick-up plan will be shared within the next few days. Some of these work packages may be part of what the teacher has sent home digitally for printing at home.</p>
<p>Online Video Lessons</p>	<p>Your teacher may decide to deliver a video lesson or a reading of a book. These can be watched at any time of the day. In some cases, the video may need to be watched before they can do an activity. Occasionally, the lesson may be scheduled for a certain time as a Google Meet that your child can choose to join.</p>
<p>Google Meet</p>	<p>This is an opportunity for teachers to connect with their students in a face to face conversation. This is not a “lesson”, but it may be an opportunity for your child to share something they have learned or done.</p> <p>Google Meets can take many formats, i.e. one-on-one with the teacher, small groups or the whole classroom. Each teacher is setting up Google Meets in a way that is appropriate for their students’ age level and will give some guidelines about expected behaviors to ensure an organized and successful Meet. These Meets will look different in Kindergarten through Grade 2 as compared to Grades 3 and 4.</p> <p>Please remember that the teacher initiates and facilitates the Google Meets and does so from within our school’s secure Google domain using the student wingsmail accounts. Also, please keep in mind much grace is extended if your child is unable to attend a Google Meet.</p>
<p>Measuring Your Child’s Learning</p>	<p>Through various online applications such as Dreambox, Spelling City, etc. the teacher can collect some of the results for feedback on your child’s progress. However, some of the best approaches to collect learning from your child is to take a picture of your child’s work, pdf the work (if you can do that) or video their “learning”.</p> <p>Each teacher is creating their own system of collecting and filing the information that they need to see how your child is progressing. We appreciate the effort of parents as teachers ask for these images and data from your child’s learning. At this point, we are planning to provide a Term 3 report card based on the data the teachers collect through these various sources. Students in EY will proceed to the next grade in September and there will be opportunity for recovery learning if needed.</p>

ON-LINE AND SUPPORTED LEARNING FOR MIDDLE YEARS (5-8)

Middle Years learning will focus primarily on numeracy and literacy within the context of the core subjects: Math, ELA, Bible, Science and Social Studies. Itinerant courses: French, P.E., Choir, Band and Art will continue in a scaled-down version. It is important to maintain engagement in these courses for when in-class learning resumes. Curriculum will be integrated across subject areas where possible while meeting essential learning components.

MY students will proceed to the next grade in September. Students will engage in recovery learning as needed. Students can learn through hands-on activities, print materials, and online platforms. Teachers will plan a minimum average of 10 hours per week of curriculum-based learning for students in Grades 5–8.

The chart below indicates the revised schedule for optional meeting times between teachers and their classes. Although these meetings remain optional for students, overall student feedback has indicated excellent value as a way to connect with their teachers and get clarity on the tasks students are working on. Students are strongly encouraged to attend these meetings regularly whenever possible. Teachers will schedule a Google Meet using Google Classroom accordingly. An important note is that these meetings are focused on Q&A for learning and teacher-directed discussions. Students wishing to socialize with friends are invited to use other parent-approved means of conveyance.

Morning Meets

Day/Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00-10:00	Grade 5-8 Core	Grade 5-8 Core	Grade 5-8 Core	Grade 5-8 Core	Grade 5-8 Core
10:30-11:00	Grade 5 French	Grade 6 French	Grade 7 French	Grade 8 French	Grade 5 P.E.
11:00-11:30		Grade 7 P.E./Health	Grade 6 Band	Grade 7 Band	Grade 8 Band

Afternoon Meets

Day/Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1:00-2:00	Grade 5-8 Core Subjects				
2:15-2:45	Grade 6 Choir	Grade 5 Choir	Grade 7 Choir	Grade 8 Choir	Grade 6 P.E.
2:45-3:15	Grade 7 Art	Grade 8 P.E./Health	Grade 8 Art		

Core=Math, ELA, Bible, Science & Social Studies

SENIOR YEARS (9-12)

We appreciate the level of engagement the vast majority of our Senior Years students have demonstrated over the past weeks and encourage them to remain diligent in their studies.

For our graduands, this is proving to be a milestone year in more ways than one could have imagined. We hope to be able to formally celebrate the Class of 2020 prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year and will update you as information becomes available. So much depends on the duration of the school closure, social distancing requirements, etc. Know that we have a strong desire to celebrate with our grads and we ask for your prayerful support as we navigate this uncharted territory.

The following provides an update on our approach to learning in the Senior Years Division:

- 1) Students in Grades 9–12 will receive, at minimum, the grades they achieved at the time of suspension of classes, but they will be required to engage in remote learning. Students will have the opportunity to increase marks. Students who do not engage in remote learning will be required to undertake recovery learning.
- 2) Specific planning is taking place to ensure students with enough credits graduate. Teachers will make special efforts for Grade 11 and 12 students to ensure they have the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for their post-graduation goals.
- 3) Teachers will prioritize learning outcomes and expectations and plan specific curriculum-related tasks for students.
- 4) Students in SY can expect a minimum of 3 to 4 hours of curriculum-based learning per full course, per week for semestered courses. For non-semestered courses, 1 ½ to 2 hours is an appropriate benchmark.
- 5) Grade 12 provincial assessments/exams scheduled for May/June 2020 are cancelled, but regular assessments will be done during remote learning.
- 6) Teachers use the Meets to touch base with students and help affirm understanding. Google Meets are optional for students. However, each teacher may call one Meet/per week where student attendance is strongly recommended. These Meets present time for discussions and may be assignment specific or provide important details about what is being studied.
- 7) There will be occasions where the teachers will need to do Evaluation Meets for a small group or an Individual Meet. These would be planned during the day when students are available.
- 8) Online learning offers flexibility in scheduling student work and learning when it is the most practical. Students can expect assignments to be posted daily by 8:30 am.

- 9) Baseline marks as of March will be used for all grades which receive percentage marks on their report cards. For students that have obtained a passing baseline mark, their learning must continue. Students need to demonstrate that they have met and understand curriculum objectives in an effort to improve their mark through new assessments. All students will be expected to continue learning and complete assignments. Those that do not will have future learning recovery requirements.

Communicating becomes vitally important as we live out the reality of remote learning. For students, learning remotely under the direction and support of teachers and with the support of parents and caregivers is challenging. We know that this requires compassion, flexibility and is a new approach to teaching and learning, especially for families with unique needs and circumstances. Teachers will be flexible in planning for learning and will consider the mental health and well-being of all.

We encourage you to keep in touch with your child's teacher on a regular basis. If you have questions about the technical aspect of Google Classroom or Meets, please email Mr. Awln Davison, our Education IT Coordinator at awlnd@lindenchristian.org. Use of email as the initial line of communication with all staff is appreciated. If you are unsure who to contact, email info@lindenchristian.org where your communication will be redirected to the appropriate department or person you are trying to reach. Please note a letter related to financial matters will be sent to you no later than April 21.

We value your feedback and welcome any suggestions and insights you have. Thank you for partnering with us - together we will get through this challenging time.

As always, you are welcome to contact any one of us as needed.



Robert Charach
Principal and CEO



Lorraine Kehler
Vice Principal



Jeff Thiessen
Vice Principal



Andrew Fast
Vice Principal