



# Bellview Public School

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April 10, 2020

## *Message from the Principal*

As we wrap up a week of teacher-led learning for students at Bellview, I wanted to provide some next steps, resources, and updates to support our students in the coming weeks.

Throughout this past week, classroom teachers at Bellview connected with their students to begin learning through online applications such as Brightspace, through email, and personal phone conversations. Please be patient as we work together to problem-solve issues with technology, working online, and accessing supports. Both our students at home, and our teachers are quickly adapting to ever changing conditions, and daily challenges. We are all in this together! Please continue to communicate directly with your child's teachers when you have questions about the assigned tasks, or virtual learning. We will address your concerns as quickly as we can under the circumstances, and try to provide workable solutions to support you at home. The information below will hopefully answer some of the questions or challenges that have arisen this week:

### *How Do We Get Started in Brightspace?:*

Attached to this letter is a one-page, quick reference guide to the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), and how to access Brightspace for students and families. Additionally, a teacher at Ecole Dufferin School, has created an easy to follow YouTube tutorial, for Grand Erie students to understand the basic features of Brightspace. You can access the link [HERE](#).

### *How much work can I expect from my child's teacher?*

The Ministry of Education has provided some guidelines for hours of work and curriculum focus areas per student. The hours in the chart below refer to the approximate amount of time students would spend on the work assigned by teachers.

Grade Range	Hours of Work Per Student Per Week	Focus
KG – Grade 3	5 hours	Literacy and Mathematics
Grades 4 - 6	5 hours	Literacy, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies
Grades 7 - 8	10 hours	Literacy, Mathematics, Science and History or Geography

Full details of the Ministry of Education's Continuity of Learning plan for students during COVID-19 can be found on the Grand Erie District School Board site [HERE](#).



*SUCCESS* for Every Student

### *How will my child's teacher assess my child's work?*

Teachers at Bellview will be using a range of ways to connect with their students during the school closure. Providing feedback on student progress, and monitoring student learning is a regular practice for all teachers, and even more so while we work and learn remotely. Student-teacher conferencing through Brightspace, email correspondence, phone conversations, or assessment of printed materials are just some examples of ways your child's teacher will be collecting evidence of student work, and providing guidance during the closure. All Grand Erie students (K-8), and teaching staff have a Grand Erie Outlook email address to support communication.

Final report cards (June 2020) are required for all elementary students (K-8). More information and specific details will be shared in the next few weeks. Although we recognize the challenges related to learning at home, it is our shared goal that ALL our students receive, and complete their assigned learning tasks during the school closure. Teachers will be monitoring work completion, and reaching out to parents and students who have not accessed Brightspace, or completed any learning tasks received online, or through email correspondence in the next week. If you need support with helping your child with the technology, or learning materials, please directly email your child's classroom teacher for help.

### *My child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), how will the teacher support them in their learning?*

Our staff at Bellview recognize the unique challenges parents and educators face in supporting students with individual profiles and learning needs at home. This is a difficult situation for our students, families and staff. During this phase of learning at home, teachers will continue to provide appropriate curriculum modifications and accommodations to support students in their classrooms based on each child's IEP, and when developing learning tasks for your child. Please note that some accommodations listed on your child's IEP is primarily for when we are teaching and learning at school, and may not be accessible while your child learns at home. To review your child's goals, please refer back to the IEP you received from the school in early October, and the updated IEP you received with your child's Progress Report Card in the Fall.

Week at a Glance Calendars are currently being developed by Grand Erie Special Education and Professional Support Services to support families, who have children with special education needs. Calendars will include strategies to support in the areas of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), Communication, Self-Care, and Self-Regulation. All calendars will be posted on the Board website for parent access, and teachers will share these with our families as well. You can also access the special education calendar for the upcoming week of April 13-17 [HERE](#).

Communicating with your child's teacher is crucial to support your child at home. Our full-time Learning Resource Teacher (LRT) for Special Education is Jennifer Hinrichs. She is an additional support during this time. Kimberly Jamont is our half-time LRT for Special Education, and provides support to students and staff with Literacy, Numeracy and Lexia.



*Tips and Links for Helping Children Learn at Home During School Closures:*

The Grand Erie District School Board has compiled a resource document for supporting students at home during the COVID-19 school closures. You can access the document on the Grand Erie main page, or through the link [HERE](#).

*Celebrate the small things in life...*

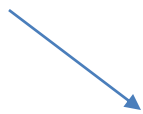
We have undergone a dramatic shift in teaching and learning in a very short while. This shift is not just in Ontario or Canada, but is affecting the Global community. If you or your child are feeling frustrated, anxious or overwhelmed with the changes, please rest assured that we are all experiencing similar emotions, and this is to be expected! What is amazing is how rapidly we are able to adapt to crisis conditions, and quickly find other ways, and new methods of doing, in order to meet our needs. Be kind to yourself, be patient, and remember that we are all doing our best under extraordinary circumstances. Focus on your family, and staying well, safe and connected! When supporting your child at home, please give yourself permission to balance the day, and accomplish what you can, along with everything else you have to do. We cannot duplicate the classroom at home! Applaud yourself and your child for their daily efforts, celebrate what you have accomplished...and take one day one at a time!

Although it will not look the same, the staff at Bellview Public School and I wish you a very Happy Easter, and a restful long weekend!

Be well, and Be Safe!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marry  
Principal



Attachments:

1. VLE – Getting Started In Brightspace (D2L)
2. Brant Food For Thought Flyer – Nutrition Food Boxes
3. Community Updates During COVID-19
4. Brantford-Brant Community Resources
5. Nova Vita Media Release
6. YLP Flyer
7. St. Leonard's Infographic