



March 27, 2020

Dear Riverside Community,

We received many questions and comments from parents regarding homework, assignments, online classes and teachers' initiatives to communicate with students.

We understand that the school and centre closure is distressing, but please also remember that we are living in a global health crisis. Parents, essential sector workers, students, teachers, etc. are all in this together. Let us work together as a community.

For Youth Sector

- From March 16 to March 30, 2020, it was **not mandatory** for teachers to produce material for students. Many of our teachers have children, and have needed to get organized as a family as the rest of our community. However, **individual** teachers' initiatives to get in touch with students and send activities have also been welcomed, keeping in mind that no task assigned to students can be compulsory, nor can it be used for evaluative purposes. We have respected teachers' decisions reflecting their individual circumstances and the Ministry's directives.
- The Minister of Education and Higher Education, Jean-François Roberge, emphasized that homes should not be turned into classrooms, nor parents into teachers.
- The MEES has indicated its intention to progressively share educational resources by subject and according to the age of the students, as of March 30th. These will be accessible through public television, the Web and the various digital tools available. The activities offered to parents and students will not be mandatory, since the current context already constitutes a major challenge in family organization. In addition, a list of suggested weekly activities for students will be sent to their parents starting the week of April 6th. Resources will be organized by subject and grade level and made accessible to all of our Riverside students through our www.rsbbbrainboost.ca website, under the MEES tab.
- Regarding communication between teachers and students, please note that more information will be shared with you at the beginning of next week.
- We understand the importance to keep on learning and that is why our Educational Services has created a great website: www.rsbbbrainboost.ca with many different learning resources for elementary & secondary level students. This site will evolve every



week, so families are encouraged to return regularly on this site, a tab reserved for Complementary Services, with resources relating to mental health as well as to support students with learning difficulties, will also be updated on a regular basis. Parents are invited to explore the website with their children.

- Regarding support offered for special needs students, and in an effort to support their families, we will adapt our professional services to support them virtually or by phone. As of the week of April 6, 2020, the Complementary Services department will provide the following services: speech and language pathology, psychoeducational services, guidance counselling, psychology and psychoeducation. Please note that services will be limited to specific activities to ensure accessibility to priority cases. In the coming days, we will communicate the process by which families can request our virtual and phone professional support services.

For the Adult Education and Vocational Training Sector

- The ministry is aware of the many challenges linked to the adult sector. Distance learning will be prioritized, when possible, to complete courses and programs. We will be flexible in the recognition of acquired competencies in order to deliver diplomas, certifications and attestations.

For All Sectors

- Minister Roberge has clearly stated that all May-June ministerial examinations are cancelled this year, and that no student should be penalized for the imposed school closures. More information is awaited from the government concerning the promotion of elementary and secondary students. Should school closures extend beyond May 1st, ministerial directives will be given with regard to both the promotion and certification of students across the province.
- In regards to school pick-up of students' belongings, we would like to let you know that we are currently awaiting details and we will get back to you with a course of action shortly.

**The situation is stressful for everyone and it is normal to be anxious and worried.
Please practice social distancing, wash your hands and stay home safe when possible.
We will get through this.**



Finally, we would like to share a link to a newsletter which we recommend to parents in regards to helping kids cope with Covid-19.

Parents are the key to how children will live through and come through this experience.

<https://hannahbeach.ca/rest-rhythm-release-helping-kids-cope-with-covid-19/>

All the information regarding Riverside School Board and the COVID-19 situation can be found on the Home page of our website www.rsb.qc.ca (News - Coronavirus COVID-19 tab)

For more information on COVID-19, please visit <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/> .