



Andrew

ADVISER

What's new at Andrew School



April 30th, 2020

Principal's Message,

I am certain the odds would be low if I asked anyone in September what the chances were that a new virus would sweep across the globe and cause an almost total world shutdown. However, here we are six weeks later from the March 15th announcement that the Government of Alberta would be ordering all in person classes cancelled. I was just as surprised as anyone, hearing about it first from my sister who called me to ask what I was going to do. Sitting in the basement watching Netflix after a day of skiing I was completely shocked as I had no idea how severe the pandemic situation had become. What followed was a week of intense planning and herculean efforts by teachers to have an online learning platform ready for April 6th. This came with many challenges ranging from determining how much learning kids can do from home to how will they learn at home without access to their teachers.

I am happy to report that the first 4 weeks of virtual teaching and remote learning have gone well. Students have welcomed the opportunity to connect with their teachers and feel a sense of normalcy as they navigate this new reality. Parents, myself included, have struggled at home to replace the teachers we so deeply value on regular days from 8:00-3:00. However, I want to say how proud I am of the Andrew community. Believe me when I say that our community and group of learners are faring much better than others in this new world of learning. Keep up the great work and efforts you have been putting forward.

I realize that many of our families are wondering about the future. Not only regarding when we come back to school, but also the future of our school here in Andrew. I am happy to report that despite some enrollment challenges in junior high, we have an excellent school with plenty of potential for the future. Maintaining our excellent programming, with excellent staff, and successful students is our top priority. I look forward to when we can all meet again in person, hear the laughter of children, see the smiling faces of happy students, and share in our community together. Until that time, please continue to stay engaged and connected. We are here for you and just a short phone call or email away.

Greg Cruickshank- Principal

Important dates:

May 15th-Professional Learning Day

May 18th- Victoria Day

June 26th- Last day of classes

Please see our website andrewschool.ca for the most current calendar. We even have some dates for 2020-21 planned already!



Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to see our #rockstaroftheday
@andrewwildcats

Report Cards and Parent / Student / Teacher Interviews

All parents / guardians should have been contacted for a telephone parent / student / teacher interview. Thank you for taking the time to discuss your child's learning via telephone. Please call us here at the school if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Kindergarten Registration is Now Open! Calling all Andrew and area 5 year old's!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2020? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at eips.ca/kindergarten.



To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit—available at eips.ca/kindergarten—to make the transition as smooth as possible. The kit includes information on registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, how to find your designated school, transportation and more.

Additional information regarding kindergarten is available on our school website at www.andrewschool.ca

Alternative Learning Toolkit

To help make the shift to alternative learning as smooth as possible, EIPS has developed an online toolkit for families and students. The toolkit includes learning resources, supplemental lessons, tips on navigating Google Classroom, strategies for supporting students, and more. Information is updated on an ongoing basis, and every day a new tip for families and students is posted online. In addition to learning supports, the toolkit also lists various mental health resources families can access to help navigate the global COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.eips.ca/alternative-learning-toolkit>

Alternative Learning During In-school Class Cancellations

Thank you to all EIPS families and students for your patience while the Division worked out the details of how learning will take place while in-school classes are cancelled. Over the last few weeks, teachers and staff have worked hard at developing alternative learning plans at all grade levels. Students enrolled in diploma courses began working with their teachers in late March. And, on April 6, the Division officially launched its alternative instruction for all other students.

Delivering learning in this way is new for students, family members and teachers. There will no doubt be obstacles to overcome along the way, and there will be successes that will bring surprise. Over the coming weeks, students will start to adjust to a different format, and teachers will learn what works best for those in their classes. It will take time. Know that teachers care deeply about students, about their achievement and are committed to ensuring all learners have the resources needed to successfully transition to the next year.

To help make the shift in learning as smooth as possible, EIPS has developed an online toolkit for families: [Alternative Learning During In-School Class Cancellations](#). The toolkit offers information about learning resources, supplemental lessons, navigating Google Classroom, how-to tips on supporting students, and more. In addition to learning supports, the toolkit also lists various mental health resources families can access to help navigate the unprecedented challenges everyone is facing as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the circumstances, it's important no one feel undue pressure to get it all right from the very beginning. There are many supports available to help along the way, and your child's education remains top of mind for every EIPS teacher and administrator. Using the resources available, teachers will do their best to help guide both you and your child until everyone is back at school, and face to face.

For more information, and questions about alternative instruction, contact the school at **7803653501** or email at gregory.cruickshank@eips.ca

Teacher Office Hours For Alternative Learning in COVID 19

Teachers are generally available all scheduled schools days from 8:00-3:00. However, they are also busy meeting 1:1 with students online, marking, creating content, and helping parents. The following times are when you can expect near instant responses and discussions via email every day. Many of our teachers are working from home so they are not accessible via telephone. However, each teacher will be accessible via telephone at the school once per week. These are the "office hours" for the teachers daily. Teachers will be able to answer questions outside of office hours during the school day. However, response times may vary.

Mrs. Horon 9:30-12:00 via email trina.horon@eips.ca can be reached by phone at Andrew School on Wednesdays.
Miss Shulko 9:00-11:00 via email bria.shulko@eips.ca can be reached by phone at Andrew School on first day of the week.

Miss Hamp 9:00-11:00 via email kendra.hamp@eips.ca can be reached by phone at Andrew School every Tuesday.
Miss Patmore 8:15-3:00 via email kirsten.patmore@eips.ca can be reached by phone at Andrew School on first day of the week.

Miss Lopatka 9:00-11:00 via email seanna.lopatka@eips.ca can be reached by phone at Andrew School every Tuesday.

Mr. Bjornson 9:30-11:30 via email andrew.bjornson@eips.ca Email for phone appointment