



## J. Addison School

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April 1, 2020

RE: School Closure Extension until May 4, 2020

Greetings,

On Tuesday, March 31, 2020 the Provincial Minister of Education, Mr. Stephen Lecce, under the advisement of the Chief Medical Officer of Ontario announced that all public schools are ordered to shut down until May 1st for teachers and May 4th for students. The shutdown affects over 4,800 schools and two million students in the province. The goal of the government is to help interrupt the chain of transmission of Covid-19 in the wider community, thereby protecting vulnerable individuals and ensuring that our health-care system will not become overburdened. Although this announcement is applicable to publicly funded schools, we believe that our school should follow suit to look after the health and wellbeing of all our students. Since last week, we have embarked on ambitious online learning programs and thanks to our teachers and staff we are meeting with tremendous success. We ask that all parents and guardians to check that their students are completing their online classes on a regular basis.

J. Addison is primarily using Google Classroom to host online classes with our teacher's working from home to assist our students. Parents and students can rest assured that our teacher awarded marks are very accurate and they're very rich and comprehensive. We have developed an ONLINE Question and answer guideline for our students. We will continue to work with the province and Ministry of Education to ensure that the learning needs of our students are being met. Furthermore, our Guidance staff are always available to answer parent and student concerns.

We recognize that students will be accessing their Google Classroom in different time zones, but the expectation is that they are online in their google classroom on our time zone with the new daily schedule. The teacher will be present and collaborating at this time. Students will be required to be in attendance, completing their assessments and participating actively in their lessons. It is necessary to be online at the same time, in the Google Classroom platform, as our daily teaching schedule. This allows for rich learning conversations and observation and valid assessment of student achievement. I want our grade 12 students to rest assured that they will graduate this year and that our guidance staff will be sending their mid-term and final marks to their post-secondary institutions of choice.

We realize that the COVID-19 pandemic is increasingly worrisome, and that the changes to the delivery of our school curriculum will require very significant adjustments on everyone's part. We are confident with the strength and support of the J. Addison community that we will meet this challenge successfully.

We welcome your calls and emails if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter. Please stay safe and take care.

Sincerely,

Mr. Lee Venditti, Principal