

Graminia Flyover - Spring Break Edition

Welcome to the Graminia Flyover, a weekly communication from the school to our community. We hope to provide easier access to important information by sending it directly to your inbox. Why a Flyover? Because we are the Hawks!

A message to Families

This past week our staff has been tasked with one of the biggest challenges we have ever faced, how does a school equipped to deliver instruction in our classrooms shift to a distance learning model? We believe in the importance of connection and the value of face to face interaction, while supporting the learning needs and capacity of all of our parents.

We also recognize that we are preparing instruction for families with a vast variety of philosophies and visions for how they hope to continue learning at home over the coming time away from our building. Our goal is to provide students with curriculum-based learning tasks. Support is only an email, Google Hangout, or phone call away. What we need from you is to choose the right amount of learning for your children and family.

If you are family with adults still being called in to work full-time while your children are at home or in the care of another, a family that is learning to adapt to the new world of working from home with kids, or a family who already has a robust learning plan in place to continue school as close to possible as it was in the classroom, we are going to do our best to support you. The Ministry of Education is expecting learning to continue and in consultation with multiple stakeholders has outlined mandatory minimums for content delivery that can be found below.

With this in mind, some tasks with definitive deadlines will be required, while supplementary work will be optional. Teachers are fully supportive of families' choices for how much and what tasks best suit each family's situation. While there will be some expectations and deadlines, our staff will strive for feedback and connection. As students submit tasks they are working on, we will connect with them to discuss strengths and areas for growth. Assessment is going to be a challenging task for us as we suspect some students may complete more work than others and we would not want marks or grades to penalize students when families intentionally chose to be selective with tasks. We value quality over quantity and look forward to moving your children forward, while appreciating unique challenges families are navigating. If you ever feel like too much or not enough work is coming home, please remember, we are trying to strike that balance between the expectations of different families and the minimum government mandate. Please keep the dialogue open with teachers as they adjust the amounts of work given and required.

So to the families who feel like they are in survival mode and just trying to manage, and to the families who confidently feel prepared to implement a rigorous educational program at home, we will walk beside you. Many of our staff too are trying to navigate the new waters of teaching

from home while now educating or caring for their own children. Communication with teachers will be key to find the balance that is right for your family.

The Ministry of Education released the following minimum requirements for content delivery:

Kindergarten – Grade 3

- The focus will be on literacy and numeracy
- Teachers will assign an average of five hours of work per student per week, and will work alongside students and parents on the delivery of these materials

Grades 4-6

- The focus will be on literacy and numeracy with an opportunity to incorporate science and social studies outcomes through cross-curricular learning
- Teachers will assign an average of five hours of work per student per week, and will work alongside students and parents on the delivery of these materials

Grades 7-9

- The focus will be on core subjects: mathematics, language/literacy, science and social studies curriculum outcomes.
- Teachers will assign an average of ten hours of work per student per week, and will work alongside students and parents on the delivery of these materials

Instruction Information

Look for detailed information on how learning will continue for each student when we return from Spring Break. You will receive communication on Tuesday, March 31st from each teacher about plans. We are looking forward to continuing to support learning for the remainder of the current situation.

Report Cards

Report Cards are now available on PowerSchool for grades 1-9 and have been emailed to parents in Kindergarten. If you have having issues accessing the report card, please contact the office after Spring Break.

Online Registration/Verification for 2020-2021

The deadline for registering your child for next year has passed. If you have not already done the verification, but are still planning on attending Graminia next year, please complete this online process as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

www.psd70.ab.ca/Registration.php.

Personal Item Pick-up

If you were unable to pick-up your personal items this week, please contact the office at graminia@psd70.ab.ca or at 780-963-5035 to arrange a time for pickup.

We are planning a pick-up of learning materials on Wednesday, April 1st. We will have more details on this after Spring Break.

Field Trip Cancellation

As a result of measures put in place to stop the spread of COVID-19, all field trips and events have been cancelled for the remainder of the year. Refunds and financial implications are being calculated and we hope to have more information after Spring Break.

Spellathon

If your child is interested in continuing to collect pledges and practicing their words for spellathon please continue to do so. The Foundation is working on some ideas and will update you in April, in regards to the test, collecting pledges and awarding prizes as we have a better timeline on what's happening with the school. In the past this has been our school foundation's largest fundraiser of the year and we hope we can still continue to contribute to Graminia School.

Student Athlete Development Academy

Registrations/applications are now being accepted for the Student Athlete Development Academy, offered through Connections for Learning (CFL).

The Parkland School Division Student Athlete Development Academy is a program for Grades 6-9 that provides student athletes in pursuit of high performance with technical, theoretical and experiential opportunities, while keeping them engaged in a rich and complete school community focused on academic achievement. Our aim is to provide local, high quality affordable options for unique high performance sport programming.

For more information, please visit [the Academy website](#).

[A Message from the Staff at Graminia](#)

Upcoming Important Dates

- Mar 23-27 - Spring Break (No School)
- Mon., Mar 30 - PD Day
- Tues., Mar 31 - Communication from teachers regarding continued programming
- Fri., Apr. 10 - Good Friday (Office Closed)
- Mon., Apr. 13 - Easter Monday (Office Closed)