

December 30th, 2020,

Dear Matawa Education & Care Centre Families,

As a follow up to the announcement made by Premier Ford on Monday, December 21st, regarding the province-wide period of public health restrictions, the Matawa Chief's Council and Matawa First Nations Management Board of Directors have decided the following:

- Christmas Break be extended to January 11th for all students;
- To close the Matawa Education & Care Centre (MECC) to in-person learning until further notice. This decision will be reviewed monthly with updates being provided by the Matawa Education Department and applicable health service providers;
- The MECC will offer Virtual/Remote Learning programming for all students.

Based on these decisions the MECC will make the following program and service changes:

Course Delivery

- Virtual/Remote learning will take place all day with attendance being taken through student participation and interaction with applicable staff (phone calls, emails, on-line learning);
- In-person instruction and learning will not be permitted until further notice. It will resume when it has been deemed safer to do so by school staff, health authorities, and Matawa leadership;
- Students already enrolled in virtual learning courses will see no change to their schedule;
- Teachers will work with students virtually, and over the phone to deliver lessons and academic supports.

Special Education

- Students with special education needs will continue to be supported by our Special Education Resource Teachers and Education Assistants.



- The MECC remains committed to ensuring that students with special education needs will be engaged in remote learning with appropriate supports. Work is underway to determine how this could be safely done;
- Parents and guardians of students in our special education program will be contacted by our Special Education Coordinator the week of January 4th-8th.

Mental Wellness Supports

- Mental Wellness supports will continue to be available to our students. Any students who are experiencing or could experience mental health challenges will continue to have access to our school counsellors, St. Joseph Care Group counsellors and youth workers, Elders, and Cultural Workers.

Devices

- Students who do not have access to a device to use during the virtual learning period will have the opportunity to use a Chromebook from the MECC. Chromebooks will be available starting the week of January 11th, for pick up or delivery. We will work with individual families, students and communities to ensure safe pick up/delivery of the devices. All devices must be returned to the MECC in good working condition when in-person learning resumes at the school.
- Cell phones are available to students on as needed basis.

The MECC is aware these adjustments can be challenging and stressful for our students, families and communities. We will continue to keep you informed of new developments regarding our program delivery and supports. We are committed to providing a safe environment for our students and staff. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brad Battiston
Principal Matawa Education & Care Centre

