



Thursday, February 11, 2021

Dear students, parents and guardians,

As you leave today for the Family Day weekend, we have important information for you about the March Break.

This afternoon, school boards across Ontario were advised that the March Break will be moved this year until the week of April 12, to prevent community transmission so close to when we are coming out of the provincial lockdown.

We understand that the government's decision may be disappointing for some families. The March Break is a kind of marker-post in the year; a date students and staff look to, knowing that they can unplug and unwind. This physical and mental break is crucial for everyone this year. Thankfully, we all will get it – just a little bit later than we had expected. Others may look forward to having the week off when the weather is a little nicer, and, hopefully, people can move around a little more openly to spend time with family and friends and do things in the community.

For those who ask, “Why not just do our own thing in Niagara?”, unfortunately, that isn't possible. The annual School Year Calendar is approved by the Ministry of Education and cannot be changed without Ministry permission.

This year has been marked by so many exceptional changes to what has been our normal routine; March Break moving to April is just one more change we will all have to adapt to as we work to flatten the COVID curve.

Thank you to all of the students who have been nothing short of exceptional at adapting to change. Never before in the modern history of education have students been asked to endure the rapid changes you have had to in the past 11 months. No students have learned at home for extended periods; or been expected to change between learning at school and at home. You are living history. To all of the parents who have faced challenges throughout this year, and to the staff who have worked to support your children and your family throughout the year, you are also blazing a trail that you never imagined. Even though it has had a few detours and potholes, you have been nothing short of amazing when it comes to leading the way for your children.

On behalf of Senior Staff, I wish everyone a great Family Day weekend. Have fun, stay safe, and we'll see everyone back on Tuesday.

Sincerely,

Camillo Cipriano  
Director of Education