

March 30, 2020

TRANSLATION

Dear parents:

The coronavirus pandemic has affected not only Québec society as a whole, but our personal lifestyle habits as well. The way we do things has been seriously disrupted, both in our professional lives and within our families.

Our priority is to ensure the health and safety of our students and school staff, which is why our government recently decided to extend the closure of all educational institutions until May 1, 2020.

I would like to reassure you, however, that the temporary closure of schools does not mean that students will be left on their own. Over the past few weeks, we have been working relentlessly with our partners in the education network to provide an appropriate response to this unprecedented situation. The exceptional collaboration of all concerned is truly deserving of recognition.

Starting today, the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur is pleased to join with its education partners in launching the new Open School online platform for parents who would like to actively contribute to their children's learning.

Open School connects students with their world, their educational institution, their community and a whole universe of possibilities!

On this site, you will find thousands of resources for learning, creating, having fun and staying active, just like at school. The suggested activities are varied and easy to use for children of all grade levels, enabling them to retain what they have already learned and stay motivated to keep on learning. Each student can map out their own path in every subject.

New activities will be added regularly to help students enjoy every day of learning, and very soon there will also be activities designed for children with specific needs.

To access the Open School platform, click on <https://ecoleouverte.ca/en/>

Please note that the purpose of this platform is to provide parents with tools to support their children's daily learning, should they find this useful. These exercises are not mandatory and will not be evaluated.

Starting the week of April 6, you will also receive a weekly educational activities package containing suggestions for learning activities for all grade levels, from preschool through all cycles of elementary and secondary school.

Some parents have expressed a desire to retrieve pedagogical material from school in order to facilitate their child's learning. The school network is currently working to make this possible, within the guidelines of the public health department. I therefore ask that you refrain from going to your child's school at this time. Please wait for instructions, which will be sent to you at a later date.

In closing, I hope you have an opportunity to spend some meaningful time exploring the Open School platform with your children and engaging in your other family activities.

Together, we will make it through this crisis. It's going to be okay.

Jean-François Roberge

Minister of Education and Higher Education