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June 17, 2020

Devices on Loan to Students and Summer Learning

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we enter the last two weeks of school in what has been anything but a typical school year, I would like to thank you for your resilience, your patience and, above all, your support as we made the transition from learning in class to learning at home.

Learning together while safely apart has taught us that we have the ability to adapt to change when called upon to do so. I am proud of how we have all responded to this new way of living and learning – always with safety first and foremost.

Of course, a key component of our continuity of education plan was access to technology. We very quickly and very safely distributed more than 2,000 devices to students in order to facilitate teacher-led distance learning.

We will be asking students to return their devices, but not just yet. We want students to keep them over the summer to continue learning on their own or, if they are enrolled in a summer learning program or secondary school course, continue learning with teacher support.

There are a few exceptions. Students graduating from Grade 12, moving out of Sudbury, Espanola or Manitoulin Island, transferring to another school board or attending Barrydowne College must return their devices after classes end on June 26. Schools will arrange for the safe return of devices. You may also email info@rainbowschools.ca and we will follow up.

In order to ensure students are on track to graduate, we are offering virtual remedial and upgrading courses for secondary students. We are also offering opportunities for students to earn new credits. To learn more, visit rainbowschools.ca.

While visiting the board website, I invite you to read our feature stories on bringing learning to life during school closures. Our staff responded with care, compassion and creativity. Our students and families embarked on this journey with an open mind and an open heart.

Stay safe and stay connected. We will chat again soon.

Sincerely,

Norm Blaseg
Director of Education