



April 3, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

In the next week or so you will hear of many differing expectations of teachers from the MEES, the school board and your principal. Some of these expectations may not be things that you are able to do for a wide variety of personal or professional reasons. Always keep in mind that if you are unable to do certain things, you should communicate that to your school principal. If there is a continued problem, you should contact ESTA.

Please keep the following points in mind when meeting with your colleagues and agreeing upon your school's approach:

Protecting your privacy is critical. Before you have any contact with parents or students, ask yourself if your chosen method of communication is a way that you would like to be contacted when this crisis is over. If the answer is no, you need to protect your personal information.

- Facebook should never be used as a means to communicate with students or parents.
- If you are calling students you should use a tool to protect your personal cellphone or home phone number. Suggestions would be hide your caller id (cellphones),*67, google hangouts, etc.
- If you are volunteering in a school daycare, you should not be expected to at the end of that day go home and continue working.
- It is not mandatory for the activity kits from the MEES to be modified, it is optional, if teachers have suggestions. Teachers who are teaching multi grade classes should not feel obligated to modify the kits for every level.
- Everyone is living in very different circumstances, please keep that in mind when meeting your colleagues. Be tolerant of those who aren't able to do certain things, for a wide range of reasons.
- The term "school team" does not mean teachers only, it implies anyone who works at the school.
- All activities are to be optional for students.

I am enclosing two documents from QPAT, the position of distance learning as well as the position on what is realistic in terms of expectations for our special needs students. I also suggest listening to QPAT President Heidi Yetman's video from today for more details on the MEES expectations of teachers.

As always you should keep in mind that the health and well being of you and your family should remain your top priority during this crisis. Keep this in mind when meeting with your school teams or principals, do what you can!

Stay home. Stay safe. Stay strong,
Gillian

Eastern Shores Teacher's Association
40 Mountsorrel, New Carlisle, Quebec G0C 1Z0
(418)680-2163 Fax (418) 478-3645
Email: esta-aees@gmail.com