



**Brenda Blancher**  
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## Good Afternoon Grand Erie Families,

This is Brenda Blancher, Director of Education here at the Grand Erie District School Board. I'm reaching out today with some important updates.

As previously announced, all Grand Erie schools and Board facility sites are closed until April 5th by order from the Government of Ontario. When this closure is extended, or if there is a change to our school year by the government, we will share that with you. We expect this news to come from the Premier in the next few days.

Last Friday, the Ministry of Education launched *Learn at Home*, an online resource that provides literacy and numeracy materials for elementary and secondary students. You can find the link to this resource as well as some Grand Erie-recommended tools and information on our website at [granderie.ca](http://granderie.ca). We understand that online resources may not be available or useful to all students and we are working on a longer-term solution for that.

With COVID-19, we recognize there is a high level of stress and anxiety amongst our students and families. This is a natural response to this unprecedented situation. During this challenging and ever-evolving situation, children and youth are most impacted by how adults around them are responding to the pandemic, and by messages through news and social media. Please take some time to focus on the health and well-being of yourself, your children and loved ones. This will go a long way in supporting students in both the short and long-term.

With this in mind, our Mental Health and Well-Being staff are working to update our website with relevant information and resources to help students and families deal with the impact of COVID-19. Watch for these materials on our website in the coming days.

Finally, as we move forward together, I promise to keep you informed and up-to-date on next steps regarding our school year, continued learning for students, and our response to COVID-19. For now, my hope is that you take good care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,

*B. Blancher*

Director of Education