



St. Michaels  
University School

## News Release

### St. Michaels University School Prepared to Move Fully Online After Spring Break

VICTORIA, BC – April 7, 2020 – Classes for St. Michaels University School students will be back in session on Tuesday, April 14, as the school is prepared to move the Kindergarten to Grade 12 experience online.

The school proactively ended classes March 13, one week before its originally scheduled Spring Break, giving teachers time to prepare and familiarize themselves with the tools they need so students can make the shift from classroom learning to remote learning.

“The fundamental goal is to continue to provide an education for our students that is just as strong in a digital world,” says Denise Lamarche, Director of Academics at SMUS. “We want to ensure students are well supported and on track to continue achieving as they have been.”

The school’s [guide to remote learning](#), which was released April 3, ensures every facet of the student experience on campus will continue in a digital world.

Using tools such as Google Classroom and video conference software, paired with offline work and breaks for digital downtime, students will attend school Monday to Friday. Students’ schedules have been built to meet the individual needs of Junior, Middle and Senior School students. Even athletics and arts courses like physical education and music will continue to be part of students’ days in creative ways.

It’s important that students are supported by familiar faces beyond the classroom, too, particularly as everyone adapts to the new learning environment. With that in mind, students can still connect with the faculty and staff they would access on campus every day including counsellors, learning resource specialists, homeroom teachers, university counsellors, boarding houseparents and the school chaplain.

“Students thrive on that face-to-face social connection and that sense of community is so important at our school, so we want to make sure they can maintain those connections in a remote learning environment,” Lamarche says.

As an international boarding school with students from 32 countries, one unique challenge is to accommodate students taking classes from different time zones. The digital tools and connections with teachers will help ensure academic continuity so students are supported no matter where they are in the world.

“It’s not going to be the same, but we will get through this together. That is the strength of our community and is no doubt the goal for all school communities,” Lamarche says. “We hope that we will all be back together on campus soon, but if that’s not possible then I look forward to what this opportunity allows for from our students; they can take their creativity and apply their learning in new ways that will be just as memorable and meaningful for them.”

St. Michaels University School has created a dedicated page for all of the school's COVID-19 updates and communications at [smus.ca/covid-19](https://smus.ca/covid-19).

**To schedule an interview with Denise Lamarche or for more information, please contact:**

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### **About St. Michaels University School**

Located in the city of Victoria, British Columbia, St. Michaels University School is a leading Canadian independent co-ed day (Kindergarten to Grade 12) and boarding (Grade 8 to 12) school. With a global reputation for academic excellence, students from around the world enjoy the challenge of an extensive curriculum, including Canada's largest Advanced Placement program. Intellectual stimulation combined with exceptional athletic, performing arts, outdoor education, extracurricular and leadership programs make SMUS the place where motivated students cultivate their full potential in everything they do. Boarders enjoy access to activities exclusive to an urban centre – sporting events, concerts, galleries and museums – while endless outdoor pursuits are offered nearby. Learn more at [smus.ca](https://smus.ca).