

April 9, 2020

Dear Grades 9-11 Students

This is a very challenging time for students. Whether you're in your first year of high school, or in grade 11, we know you are all concerned about how the present situation may impact your school year.

We wanted to provide both reassurance and clarification on what we are doing to help you move forward to achieve your goals.

Here are some answers to the questions you have asked:

- **Learn at Home** - Teachers are now providing teacher-led learning online. The goal is not to replicate the school day at home. Teachers have been asked to review their long range teaching plans and the curriculum content not yet taught, simplify what will be taught and focus on the most essential learning concepts in that course. **Reduced Hours** - Course learning for semestered courses is to be no more than **3 hours per week per course, and 1.5 hours per week for non semestered courses**. This includes any Google Meets/Hangouts/ live teaching/ recorded teaching as well as assigned work for the week by your teachers.
- **Assessment and Evaluation** - As of April 6th, teachers will assign learning tasks, assignments, projects and summatives. Teachers will continue to provide you with ongoing feedback to improve your learning. The number of assessments and evaluations will be reduced, but the assignments and tasks will be evaluated. Your teacher will mark these and communicate your results. Report cards will also be different.
- **Mid-term Marks** - Mid-term marks will only be issued in the province of Ontario for graduating grade 12 students as these are required for postsecondary. The Ministry of Education has removed the requirement for mid-term report cards for all secondary students for this school year.
- **Determining Final grades** - All of the learning you demonstrated prior to March 13th and until the end of June will inform the final grade for a given course. To ensure that students are not negatively impacted as a result of these difficult circumstances during the school closures, teachers will only consider the following in determining final grades:
  - Learning demonstrated **prior to March 13th**; and
  - Demonstrated **improvement in learning** from April 6 to the end of June.

This means, for all students engaged in learning until the end of June, your marks **are not at risk of dropping**. All students will receive a final report card in June.

The reporting of Learning Skills and Work Habits reflected in the June report card will reflect information gathered prior to March 13th.

- **Tech Support** - The schools have been working to support families who require wifi access and/or devices in order to support children's learning at home. These are being delivered to students starting this week and continuing into next week. If you require support, please contact your principal.
- **Resources and Supports** - Many secondary students are assisting at home with care and learning for younger siblings; every student has a different home circumstance. Our social workers and psychologists, guidance counsellors, special education teachers, student success teachers, principals and vice-principals, and all of your teachers are here to support and ensure your success. If you need assistance, please reach out.

Learning will look different this year, but your teachers are here to work with you through this challenging time. Even though it looks and feels different, it is important that you continue your learning over the next three months; this will be essential to your preparation and your success as you move into your next level of courses in September.

There are still many questions to be answered about the other parts of the school year, including exams. We are working to get answers to these questions and will continue to update you as information becomes available.

As always, please reach out to your teachers, your principal and vice-principal should you have any questions or concerns.

Camille Williams-Taylor

Director of Education