

May 01, 2020

Dear Grade 12 Students:

A couple of weeks ago, we asked you to tell us about your experience so far with learning at home. Over 3000 students in grades 7-12 shared over 2500 thoughts. Here's a summary of what you told us: [Grades 9-12 Student Feedback](#)

We heard what you had to say, especially the unique challenges and pressures affecting Grade 12 students. Your feedback has helped us to make some decisions. Today, we are sharing information about marks, report cards, summer school and graduation celebrations.

The impact of Covid-19 is especially hard for grade 12 students who are missing the many special events and activities that happen in the last year of high school. We know that things are different this year, but our plan is to work with you to come up with ways to celebrate the class of 2020 and abide by public health guidance to keep you safe. We will be conducting a follow-up Thought Exchange just for our Grade 12 students to ask one question: *What are your ideas, suggestions and recommendations as to how we can celebrate our class of 2020 in June virtually?*

First, let's answer some of the questions you have already asked:

Q1: Will there be exams?

A: No, the Ministry of Education has cancelled all Ontario exams. Exam days will be used for instruction.

Q2: Will there be summatives?

Yes, there will be summative tasks. The number or complexity of summatives will not be increased because exams are cancelled. More information will come as soon as possible.

Q3: What will happen with graduation/commencement ceremonies?

A: To ensure your safety, all grade 12 commencement ceremonies will be delayed until Fall 2020, subject to public health direction at that time. Students and staff will be invited to share ideas and input on how we can **virtually** celebrate the class of 2020 in June. We will look forward to formal ceremonies in the fall.

Q4: Does it really matter if I do the Learn At Home Work from April to June?

A. Yes it does. Some people think marks are the only thing that matter, but that's not true. What matters most is learning. Your teachers are working to ensure that you learn all the key concepts so that you will be ready for next year. You will continue to be

assigned tasks and assignments, receive feedback and levels for the work completed from April 6 through to the end of June. Engaging in this learning will help you get ready for next year.

Q5: I am doing a lot more work than the 3 hours per course in high school.

A: It is really important to communicate this to your teacher. Learning at Home is still new for everybody- for students, parents and teachers. Please let your teachers know so they can adjust the work assigned. As always, guidance counsellors, principal and vice-principals are also available to support you.

Q6: Can I improve my marks?

A: Yes you can. Your report card mark **will not** be lower than the mark you had on March 13th. But your mark could be higher if you are actively engaged in the LearnAtHome work and improve your achievement. This looks different for every class and student, but talk to your teacher for more information about how you can improve your marks. Your student evidence record is one way that you may be able to see the evidence of your learning in your course both before and after March 13.

Q7: How do I get my midterm marks in Grade 12?

A: Grade 12 students will be able to access their marks through Career Cruising as of May 1st. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to access your marks.

Q8: What is the deadline for dropping a course in grade 11/12 before it appears on my permanent transcript?

A: If you are taking a grade 11 or grade 12 course and considering withdrawing (dropping) from it, you need to withdraw from the course on or before **May 15th** in order for it not to appear on your transcript. After **May 15th**, even if you withdraw from the course, both the course and your mark as of May 1st will show on your official transcript. If after careful consideration and discussion with your parents/guardians you decide you need to drop a course, please email your guidance counsellor to make arrangements to withdraw from the course. If you are in grade 12, please be sure to consider the impact of withdrawing on your total number of credits required for graduation.

Q9: I am worried about failing a course, what should I do?

A: If you are struggling in a course, please share your concerns with your parent/guardian and talk with your teacher. If you are at risk of not earning the credit, contact your guidance counsellor. The guidance counsellor will support you, help identify and solve problems, and connect you with additional supports such as credit rescue. Work on credit rescue is underway and will continue. Your teachers, guidance

counsellors, student success teachers and principals/vice-principals are all here to help and support you.

Q10: What if I need or want to attend Summer School?

A: Registration for summer school **opens Monday, May 4th**. All summer school classes will be offered online; no in school programming will be available. You can take reach ahead or credit recovery courses. Register now by contacting your guidance counsellor for details. You will find more information [here](#).

Q11: Will there be any more PA Days?

A: No, the remaining PA Days have been cancelled. They will be used for instruction.

We know there are still many questions about the extended closure. We are working to get answers for you. We also wanted to thank the many students who are working to support their communities during this difficult time. We know that the restrictions placed on people due to COVID-19 can impact our mental health and well-being. It's common to have good days and bad days. It is important to speak about your feelings. Remember, the Kids Help Phone offers 24/7, confidential nation-wide support service. You can [call them](#) at 1-800-668-6868, [text](#) or [online chat](#).

Take good care,

Camille Williams-Taylor

Director of Education/Secretary to the Board