

May 01, 2020

Dear Students in Grades 7-8

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 participated in the discussion and shared over 2500 thoughts. Here's a summary of what you told us: [Grade 7-8 Student Feedback](#)

We appreciate what you had to say and are using that information to make some decisions. It's clear that managing all this change is difficult. You have asked for more clarity and we have some answers:

Q1: Does it really matter if I do the Learn At Home Work from April to June?

Yes it does. Some people think marks are the only thing that matter, but that's not true. What matters most is the 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, and will receive feedback 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.

Q2: I am doing a lot more work than the 10 hours per week.

It is really important to communicate this to your teachers. 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, your principal and vice-principals are also available to support you.

Q3: Can I improve my marks?

Yes you can, if you are actively engaged in the Learn At Home work and improve your learning. This looks different for every class and student, but talk to your teacher for more information about how you can improve your marks.

Q4: Will there be PA Days?

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

Q5: Will there be a leaving ceremony for students in Grade 8?

To ensure safety, we will not be able to hold our regular leaving ceremonies. Students and staff will be invited to share ideas and input on how we can virtually celebrate in lieu of leaving ceremonies in June of 2020.

Q6: I'm in Grade 8. Will Reach Ahead credits available this summer?

Students who are in Grade 8 can enroll in a Grade 9 Reach Ahead credit course. Courses are offered over the summer and are online only. Speak with your parents and contact your Grade 8 teacher and they will help you to register. Registration will open on Monday, May 4th. Learn more about summer school [here](#).

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 are having an impact on mental health and well-being. 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 care,

Camille Williams-Taylor