

May 01, 2020

Dear Students in Grades 9-11

A few 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 appreciate what you had to say and your input has helped 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: 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 were cancelled. More information will come as soon as possible.

Q3: 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.

Q4: 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.

Q5: 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 Learn At Home 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 will be a great resource to see the evidence of your learning in your course both before and after March 13.

Q6: How do I get my midterm marks in Grades 9-11

A: Teachers will communicate marks as of March 13 to students in grades 9-11 either through email, or through their student evidence record by **May 8**. As always, students can reach out directly to ask their teachers their midterm marks.

Q7: 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 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.

Q8: 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 into July. Your teachers, guidance counsellors, student success teachers and principals/vice-principals are all here to help and support you.

Q9: 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](#).

Q10: 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 care,

Camille Williams-Taylor