



Thoughtexchange Summary

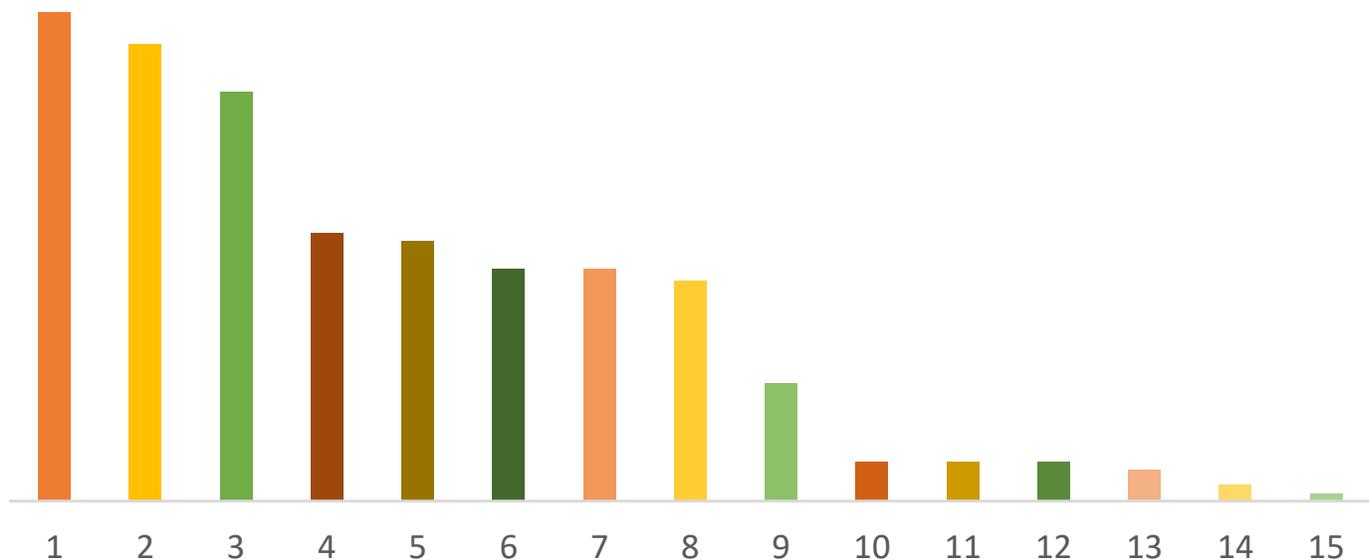
What we asked: As we continue with learning at home, what are your challenges, successes, questions, and/or suggestions?

Participation: 7012 Participants 8902 Thoughts Shared 169,803 Star Ratings Assigned

	Students 7-8	Students 9-12	Parents K-8	Parents 9-12	Community
Participants	774	2304	3162	731	41
Thoughts Shared	635	1923	5061	1260	23
Ratings Assigned	11,416	41,354	92,770	24,211	52

What we heard:

Common Themes: The common themes among the thoughts that were rated 4.0 and above



1. Family Stress/Life Balance
2. Hours/Volume of Work/Consistency
3. Need Teacher-Led Learning
4. Hard to Focus/Be Motivated
5. Online Platforms/Resources
6. Assignments/Evaluation
7. Need Contact/Online is Difficult
8. Need Instructions/Communication
9. Stress/Anxiety
10. Equity
11. Graduation/Post-Secondary
12. Access to Technology
13. French Immersion
14. Positive/Successes
15. Hands-On

In Detail:

1. Family Stress/Life Balance

- Parents/guardians are finding it challenging to support their children while working from home or working essential jobs;
- Students are finding it challenging doing school work in a pandemic with part-time jobs and other responsibilities (i.e., helping with siblings);
- Both groups are busy caring for sick loved ones.

2. Hours/Volume of Work/Consistency

- Reports that the workload is too heavy, beyond the recommended hours;
- Teachers are inconsistent in their approach, classes/meetings scheduled at conflicting times;
- Desire for work to be staggered with longer deadlines; multiple suggestions for work to be communicated on Fridays with the weekend to prepare and then one week to complete.

3. Need Teacher-Led Learning

- Want video lessons with face-to-face teaching; if live, include the option to record for students who need flexibility;
- Requesting more interaction from teachers and/or virtual classroom;
- Reports of too much 'busy work' being assigned without enough teaching;
- Parents/guardians don't feel equipped to take on the role of the teacher.

4. Hard to Focus/Be Motivated

- Students find it very difficult to stay focused, motivated, and productive while at home;
- Lack of routine and distractions at home are challenging;
- Hard to be productive with the delay in responses to questions;
- Seeking meaningful and engaging work.

5. Online Platforms/Resources

- Multiple platforms/tools/accounts/passwords are creating significant frustration; requests for consistency and a single host platform;

- Frustration with the limited parent access to google classroom (parents want the student view);
- All online meetings should be recorded so students can watch again/at a different time;
- Too many online resources to navigate and determine what is useful.

6. Assignments/Evaluation

- Looking for further clarity, with examples, on how marks will be calculated (and more reassurance that marks will not go down);
- Questions about what will happen with final exams/summatives; concern that exams would be unfair; requests to cancel exams;
- Requests for marks to be pass/fail was met with mixed ratings;
- Group work is particularly challenging.

7. Need Contact/Online is Difficult

- Students miss being at school, seeing classmates and teachers; want to feel connected to school community;
- Concerns about too much screen time;
- Online learning is difficult; students are not truly learning by reading texts/slides; miss opportunities for clarification;
- It's motivating when teachers comment on work and give feedback.
- Need Clear Instructions/Communication
- Students and parents are seeking clarity on what students are supposed to be doing;
- Parents want to be copied in on communication to students so that they are in the loop, even for high school students;
- Communication needs to be streamlined, more consistent between teachers, in one place, and with concise, easy-to-follow instructions.

8. Stress/Anxiety

- Challenging for those with pre-existing mental health issues;
- Impact on everyone's mental health;
- Feeling stressed, lost, paranoid, frustrated, anxious, depressed, etc.



In Detail:

10. Equity

- Need help for students with Individual Education Plans;
- Concern for those in unsafe environments;
- Concern that the system rewards parents' abilities to teach and be organized, or a child's ability to access devices;
- Concern for English Language Learners.

11. Graduation/Post-Secondary

- Grade 12s are happy with the decision that marks will not decrease, but are feeling anxious and uncertain about the future (acceptances, scholarships, summer work).
- Seeking support from guidance counselors;
- Concerns about lacking knowledge that is needed for university courses (or next grade);
- Looking for more communication specific to grade 12s.

12. Access to Technology

- Allow flexibility in submitting work (e.g., photos of handwritten work);
- Some do not have wifi access, have unreliable wifi connection, or limited bandwidth for multiple people;
- Not all families have access to a computer, or must

share a computer among multiple family members;

- Some are completing work on phones/mobile devices;
- Paper packages with worksheets would be great, but many lacking access to a printer.

13. French Immersion

- Not all homes have French speakers, so it is difficult to support students in French;
- Students need more time speaking French with teachers and classmates;
- Video chats are needed for practice.

14. Positive/Successes

- Praise for specific teachers/principals;
- Appreciation for videos and check-ins;
- Parents appreciate the effort being put in.

15. Hands-On

- Students miss hands-on learning, such as science labs but have questions about materials for courses such as science, art, shop, etc.
- Opportunity to learn skills at home: fix the sink, cook, clean, change tires, etc.;
- Opportunity to learn coping skills, practice social and human values

What's Next? We are currently using this feedback in these ways:

- To inform decision-making about next steps for supporting students and families;
- Working with principals to bring clarity to our practices;
- Doing some research to better understand some of the issues raised;
- Updating our FAQs to ensure parents and students have the answers they are looking for; and
- Sharing the key themes and trends as we work with our education partners so that we all benefit from this collective insight.

How Thoughtexchange works:

Participation in Thoughtexchange is a three-step process, where participants are asked to:

- **Share thoughts:** Participants responded to with their experiences. All thoughts were shared with other participants, exactly as they were entered.
- **Star points of view:** Participants were asked to review the thoughts of others and rate them based on how much they agree (5 stars) or disagree (1 star). This helped to identify the ideas that are most important to the group.
- **Discover what matters:** Participants have the opportunity to learn about the group's shared values and priorities. Even those who didn't participate in the previous steps can view the thoughts, sorted by overall rating, as well as 'hot topics' which capture different ideas that were rated highly by the group.

