

Dear Students,

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases is rising in the community and in schools. The current school case numbers are at the highest levels we have seen all year. New COVID variants are increasingly reported in our community and have been identified in Ottawa schools. As the number of cases increases, so does the number of high-risk contacts who must self-isolate. This is creating serious staff shortages. Over the last week, several OCDSB schools have had to pivot to remote learning.

Please ensure you are completing [the daily self-assessment](#) before school. Please stay home and follow the health advice if you have any symptoms. Public health measures such as physical distancing and mask wearing (even outside) are key to reducing transmission.

With holidays and a week-long break approaching April 12-16, we must continue to follow public health guidelines. This is not the time for social gatherings or travel to see loved ones. Let's keep focused on the good habits we have developed and work to keep the community protected and schools open until the end of June.

Secondary Student Success Day - April 9

In the recent Winter Survey, you asked us to reduce workload stressors in support of student well-being. In response to those concerns, the OCDSB is establishing a **Secondary Student Success Day on April 9th**. This will be a dedicated asynchronous learning day for students to catch up and complete any outstanding work before the April Break (12-16). There will be no secondary in-person or remote learning classes and no new material taught on this day; secondary students will not attend school. You will be asked to take any learning materials home with you on April 7th or 8th.

Standing Up to Racism

Over the past year, we have witnessed acts of racism in many forms and we have learned that we cannot be silent in the face of hatred and racism. The recent shootings in Atlanta are yet another example of targeted hatred and discrimination. We strongly condemn anti-Asian racism in all its forms and stand in solidarity with students, parents, staff and community members who may be feeling the impact of discrimination.

The OCDSB is taking proactive steps to address racism. One activity currently underway is the development of a human rights policy. This policy is key to putting in place standards of practice and a program for enforcing anti-racism, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment. You can participate in the **OCDSB Human Rights Policy Consultation** in one of these ways:

- [Complete the survey](#)
- [Join a group discussion](#)

- [Learn more about the consultation](#)

2021-2022 School Year Calendar, Additional Changes Coming

Earlier this week, we shared on our website a version of the 2021-2022 school year calendar. Based on some updates from the Ministry of Education and feedback received, we will be revising this calendar. An updated version will be shared in the coming month.

International Trans Day of Visibility - March 31

We all have a role to play to ensure that trans and gender diverse students have a safe learning environment. Join us in marking International Trans Day of Visibility next week, and watch for more information on our website.

In case you missed it:

Police Involvement in Schools - Policy and Practice Review

- [Join a group discussion](#)
- [Learn more about the consultation](#)

OCDSB Indigenous Youth Symposium - Virtual Event Series

- March 31, 6:00 p.m.
- [Learn more and register](#)