

Update on Exams, Community Service Hours, Post-Secondary Pathways and more...

November 5, 2020

Dear OCDSB Secondary Students

Last month, we asked you about your experience with school so far. We heard you and we recognize the work that students are doing to navigate the many changes that are unique to this school year. You asked some questions and we are happy to be able to answer some of them below. As mentioned in the email earlier this week about the survey results, we are continuing to work on actions in response to your feedback. Thank you.

COVID-19 Daily Screening

Thank you all for continuing to do your part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Don't forget to follow the [daily screening](#) for yourself, stay home if you're feeling sick, and wear your mask both inside the school, and whenever you are unable to keep a safe distance from others.

Quadmester

The current quadmester will end on Friday, November 13th, 2020. The following quadmester and octomester will begin on Monday, November 16th, 2020. The complete 2020-2021 Secondary Calendar can be viewed [on our website](#).

Final Evaluations/Exams

As OCDSB secondary schools are presently in a quadmester or octomester hybrid model for learning, exam days have been removed from the school year calendar so we can prioritize these days as in-class instructional time. Examinations/summative evaluations will not occur for the 2020-2021 school year and final grades will be based on 100% term work only.

Grad Photos

We know this is important to 2021 grads. We're currently working on a plan and will have more information soon!

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

The literacy graduation requirement will be waived for all students graduating during the 2020-21 school year. The ministry is continuing to explore a field test of the online OSSLT in Spring 2021, which could allow the opportunity for non-graduating students to write the test and have successful attempts counted on their transcript.

Community Service Hours - Graduation Requirements

The Ministry of Education has announced that for students graduating in the 2020-2021 school year, the community involvement graduation requirement will be reduced to a minimum of **20 hours instead of the usual 40 hours**.

Students will still need to log their community hours using this form. Since students may not be able to get forms signed volunteer supervisors may be contacted to verify the hours submitted.

Check our [website](#) for more information.

Planning Post-Secondary Pathways?

If you are a grade 12 student and are trying to sort your way through the planning process for post secondary, here are some helpful resources:

More information on applying to college in Ontario can be found on the [Ontario College Applications System \(OCAS\)](#) website. Learn [how to apply](#).

More information about applying to university in Ontario may be found on the [Ontario University Application Centre \(OUAC\)](#) website. Students applying to universities outside Ontario must apply directly to out-of-province universities using application information available on the university's website. Programs, fees and prerequisites vary by university.

eINFO - A guide to Ontario's universities for secondary school students.

Use eINFO to:

- Search for programs, prerequisites and grade requirements using the Program Finder,
- Browse university scholarships and awards,
- Research details about each university's residences and meal plans,
- Gather information about campus visits and language requirements,

- Find answers to frequently asked questions, and
- Pinpoint university locations.

[Common University Data Ontario \(CUDO\)](#) is a source of detailed information about each Ontario university.

In the next couple of weeks, OCDSB students in grade 12 should receive a letter with registration information for the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC) and/or Ontario College Application System (OCAS). Watch for this information as it is required in order to start the post secondary application process. If you do not receive it, or have questions, the school guidance office will be happy to help you.

Mental Health

At any time, but particularly during uncertain times, it is essential for students to look after their mental health, just as they look after their physical health. [Self-Care 101 for Students](#), which includes getting enough sleep, eating healthy, minimizing screen time and finding time to exercise, is a great start. Although it can be tough, it's important for students to try and find balance between school, friends, work and family.

In these challenging times we can stay positive, by noticing good things and being grateful. But, life is also stressful and it's okay to not feel okay. Feeling stress is normal. Encouraging your child to talk with family, friends, educators, coaches, spiritual leaders or other [mental health resources](#) can make a big difference in how they think and feel.

For more information check out: www.jack.org