

April 16, 2020

Dear CTS Families,

RE: 2-way Video Conferencing

During home learning the use of digital tools has become very important to connect teachers, students, support staff and parents. In some cases, it is very helpful for our staff to connect with students face-to-face using video conferencing technology.

The video conferencing platform used by the Surrey School District is called **Microsoft Teams**. It is part of the Office 365 suite of tools. All students have access to this platform.

If your child's teacher is using Teams to teach and learn, you should know that the District has now enabled student video cameras in Teams. This means that students are now able to chat on video with friends or classmates from home. Parents may wish to supervise and monitor this activity.

Parent Permission for 2-way Video Conferencing

The District requires permission from parents to use 2-way video conferencing between your child and a teacher or support staff. Your teacher will send a consent form to you to sign, or ask for your permission via email or phone. Once you give permission, this allows your child to see their teacher and any screen their teacher is sharing with them. Video conferencing can provide an important face-to-face connection and enhance learning for many students.

With your consent, the classroom teacher or Integration Support Teacher will work with parents to schedule the times for video conferences. Our top priority is to ensure that the best supports are in place to help your child learn, while protecting the privacy of families and students.

Please contact your child's teacher if you would like more information.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this new reality in teaching and learning.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Newman