



NORTH SURREY

S e c o n d a r y S c h o o l

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Dear North Surrey parents, guardians, and students

Thank you for all of the emails and comments that you have been sending to the school over the last few weeks. We are very encouraged by your support, and your recognition of the huge undertaking this has been to shift our learning online. We hope that you are managing well at home with the online instruction. There have been huge frustrations, and huge moments of learning for all of us. I am hoping that each week will become a little bit easier for everyone. The staff are all recognizing that the best part of our job, which is sorely missed, is the day to day interactions we have with our students. They are at the heart of everything we do!

This is our fourth week of the new environment, and we are hoping that most of the ‘bugs’ have been worked out of the system. It is a balancing act to provide sufficient learning to students that will enable them to continue learning next school year, and not overwhelm our families and ourselves with the additional time and understanding it takes to work online. Please let us know if you are having any difficulty, or need us to support you through this time.

One of the big questions being asked by our students is “Does this count?” and if so, “How does this count?”. Our continuation of learning is focused on the **learning**, and ensuring that students have been introduced to the big ideas and competencies that will be required in the next grade. Teachers are finding assignments and lessons that work well in this situation, and different ways to assess that learning that gives formative feedback to parents. It is not intended to be a duplication of the courses as they would be offered in class. Our teachers understand that we cannot have the same expectations in this new way of learning, as we would in the regular classroom.

It might be very different and much less in quantity, but, what you are learning over the next few months does count. Teachers are reaching out to students and asking them to engage in their learning. In the latest Ministry update, the Minister of Education stated:

- Teachers will determine a final grade for students based on work completed to date and the assessment of learning that will occur over the coming months.
- As in any given school year, students on track or eligible to graduate will be able to graduate provided the student has completed sufficient learning in their coursework. This includes what they have learned since the course started, along with the learning they will complete from now until the end of the school year.
- To be “eligible to graduate” means a student will satisfy all graduation requirements upon successful completion of courses they currently have underway and are continuing through to June 2020.
- Students are expected to continue their learning for each course they are enrolled in and to complete assignments set out by their teachers to finish their courses.



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With all of our staff, we are endeavoring to spend our time in the next few months focused on what is most important. We recognize that there are many factors and events happening in our community that would deter a student from engaging with us, and we will stay mindful of the situation around us. If it is a question of “Does this count?” and ‘Will I get a final mark?, the answer is yes. These are learning opportunities we want you to engage in with your teachers to the best of your ability to do so. Please let your teachers or your Principal and Vice Principal know when you are unable to do so, and we will support you and adapt for you as needed. We have also designed a learning schedule that our teachers are following to ensure there are no conflicts in student teacher access online. Some teachers may not use this schedule if they are not “meeting” as a whole class. For those teachers who would like to have a time and date to meet with their class I have asked them to follow the schedule below:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday (Office hours)
Blk A (am)	Blk C (am)	Blk B (am)	Blk D (am)	General contact with students
Blk B (pm)	Blk D (pm)	Blk A (pm)	Blk C (pm)	

Please don't hesitate to call or email us if you have any concerns or further questions.

With all our best wishes for you and your family as we move through this together,

D. Bedard
Principal
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