Distance Learning Message from Student Services

As you are aware, the Ministry of Education has been working with School Boards to develop Distance Learning Platforms for students/families to continue the education of our students during the school closure. The first phase of the Learn at Home program provides resources to support student learning at home and can be found at <u>https://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-at-home</u>. We encourage families to access and use these resources.

The next stage of the Learn at Home program will **move toward Distance Learning** which will involve teacher led learning for each of their courses/classes of students. The School Board has been working with our school admin teams and teachers to determine the best way to move forward with providing learning for our students through platforms such as Google Classroom, D2L and Office 365 – platforms that students are familiar with and are already using in their classes.

At this time, **we encourage all students to be logging on to the sites that they have been using in their classrooms**; many teachers have already posted activities and information to engage students.

Over the next while, we will be moving toward all teachers proving a Distance Learning program for all students – providing learning opportunities to meet curriculum expectations. The expectation is that all students log into the platform being used by their teachers.

- 1. Student participation is required.
- 2. Evaluations will take place so there will be submission of work, for assessment/evaluation of the work.

We know that we have several hurdles to overcome in order to effectively move to this Distance Learning model for all students – beginning with ensuring that all teachers have the resources they need at hand to provide the learning materials for students and to carry out the assessment and evaluation of the submitted work, as well as ensuring equitable access to these materials for all of our students. These hurdles will be challenging, but we are working collectively to overcome them, and we will provide families with updated information as it is received.

Over the next while, please know that even though we are not physically present, we are all together in spirit and know that we hold all of you and your families in our daily thoughts and prayers!

Grade 12 Message

Attention grade 12's, at this time it is not known when we will all be returning to school. Please access your classroom Distance Learning Platform established by your teachers to continue with your studies. The participation is mandatory and assessment and evaluation will take place.

As for community service hours. We currently have extended the deadline to April 22. We will be extending that deadline to May 15, 2020. Just so you are all aware, due to the social distancing requirements, as directed by our Healthcare teams, the Ministry is looking at the possibility of waving the community service graduation requirement for current graduating grade 12 students. We are awaiting a response from the Ministry of Education and will update you immediately.

Charles LoPresti, OCT

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