

Remote Learning Q&A for Secondary Schools

Greater Victoria School District 61

April 21, 2020

WHAT IS REMOTE LEARNING?

Remote Learning occurs when the student is separated from school staff members by time and distance and therefore cannot meet in a traditional classroom setting. Information is typically transmitted via technology (email, websites, mobile apps, video conferencing, and telephone calls) so that no physical presence in the classroom is required. Remote learning can occur synchronously (in-real time, i.e. student and the staff member communicating at the same time) or asynchronously (not at the same time, i.e. one person communicates and the other responds at a later time).

DO I HAVE TO ENGAGE WITH REMOTE LEARNING TO GRADUATE?

- **Yes!** Students eligible to graduate are expected to engage in remote learning opportunities for each course in which they are enrolled. They will also be expected to demonstrate their learning to show that they have met the learning standards for successful completion of the course.
- “Eligible to graduate” means that a student will satisfy all provincial [graduation requirements](#) and successfully complete sufficient learning in currently enrolled courses. ***This does not mean that students will graduate no matter what.***
- Sufficient learning means that a student would be able to pursue further learning in the subject area, as defined by what the teacher identifies as the essential learning outcomes of the course.
- To support remote learning, staff members are providing opportunities for students to continue learning in their current courses. These learning opportunities will focus on the essential learning outcomes of each course. While the current focus is on remote on-line learning, a range of supports are also still available to support students including access to Educational Assistants (EAs), School Counsellors, Learning Support Teachers, tutorials, etc.
- Staff will work with students to develop plans and set reasonable expectations given the current circumstances and the individual needs of the students. We recognize that many students may not have easy access to specific learning resources or ideal remote work spaces.
- Staff members will support all students as part of the continuity of learning and help those students who may need additional support to meet graduation requirements.

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WILL ALL STUDENTS RECEIVE FINAL GRADES FOR THEIR CURRENT COURSES?

- Yes, all students will receive a final grade for each course in which they are enrolled and successfully complete by the end of the school year.
- Teachers will determine a final grade for students based on work completed to date **and** the assessment of remote learning that will occur over the coming months.
- Staff will do their best to accommodate those students whose learning needs or personal circumstances may require unique approaches to instruction and assessment.
- All students have been issued an interim report letter grade and percentage for the work completed up until Spring Break. For Grade 12 students, the purpose of this interim grade is to satisfy the application process to post-secondary institutions. This term grade is subject to change as FINAL letter grades will be issued in June that **will include** remote learning assignments issued over the coming weeks.

WHAT ABOUT GRADUATION ASSESSMENTS ?

- The previously scheduled April 2020 graduation assessment administration has been cancelled.
- The only graduation assessment required for current Grade 12 students is the Grade 10 numeracy assessment. The Ministry is assessing a range of options to ensure this graduation requirement can be met by those students who are otherwise on track to graduate this year.

WHAT ABOUT CAREER LIFE CONNECTIONS & CAPSTONE?

- Staff will work with students to fulfill the requirements of Career Life Connections, including the capstone project. Career Center teams are available for support around post-secondary transitions.
- For the specific requirement of 30 hours of work experience or career-life experience, students can be given many opportunities to fulfil these requirements in alternative ways. For example, students could do work around their home such as babysitting younger siblings, household cleaning, yard maintenance, food preparation, maintenance work or household accounting. With this stated, student safety is paramount and normal mentorship requirements may not be possible.
- For capstone projects, students should be able to complete many aspects of the self-assessment and critical analysis, as well as the planning for capstone representation.
- Recognizing that all students may not have access to specific samples of work or other important elements needed for their capstone presentations, efforts to innovate under the current circumstances should be recognized. Students can be given many different options and significant flexibility regarding how to design and present a more limited capstone via alternative methods such as videoconferencing.

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WHAT ABOUT POST-SECONDARY?

- The Ministry of Education is working with post-secondary institutions and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training to support smooth transitions to post-secondary education for students by the end of the school year.
- Transcripts remain available to students through the [Ministry of Education's Student Transcript Service](#) and will be updated when schools are able to report final marks.
- Career Center teams in schools remain available to support student post-secondary transitions.
- Post-secondary deadlines remain unchanged at this time.

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

- Secondary Schools will assess each Grade 12 student's graduation portfolio and reach out to every student who may be at risk of not graduating this year.
- Secondary schools will ensure that access to key contacts are clearly communicated to students and families and published on their school websites.
- Students are also encouraged to connect with a Teacher, EA, Counsellor, Career Coordinator, Career Teacher, Youth and Family Counsellor or Administrator should they have questions, concerns, or are in need of additional support.
- Students are also encouraged to connect with school staff should they be in a unique personal scenario that makes remote learning difficult to accomplish. All school staff are there to help.
- Support for scholarships, post-secondary applications, dual credit applications, post-secondary transitions (future work, training, post-secondary education) will continue.