

SWC FAQ Sheet – April 2020



1. When do we find out about Mid-Term Marks?

- As directed by the Ontario Ministry of Education, **only Grade 12 graduating students will have a mid-term mark.** These marks will be uploaded into our system by April 27 and communicated to students by teachers. Please remember that teachers are not legally permitted to communicate with parents of students over 18, unless given permission by the student via a phone call or email. Teachers are bound by The Education Act and MFIPPA (The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act). If you are a parent of a graduating student, you will find another FAQ for Grads on at - https://docs.Google.com/document/d/1ByAWcYZxEbi7w2uT9HLtKRauSYn_La3_7g2KRsmhPnc/edit.

2. Will students in Gr.9-11 receive grades?

- Yes – as directed by the Ontario Ministry of Education, **the work students are now completing will count towards their end of year (June) grades.** Teachers will be as flexible and understanding as they can be, but they need evidence of student learning in order to assign a grade and will reach out to parents if a credit is at risk. Some online formats allow students to see their grades, and some allow parents to receive notifications. Parents can look into these classrooms by asking their child to log in. Many teachers will communicate through email. If you receive a personal phone call from a teacher, you might see “Blocked Number” on your phone screen. If parents or students have concerns, do not hesitate to email teachers. For a full listing of teacher emails and online platforms, visit <https://sites.google.com/dsbn.org/swcstaff/home>.

3. How often should teachers be posting lessons/assignments?

- The big answer lies in what teachers were directed to do by Minister Lecce. **Teachers are to deliver 3 hours of content (a combination of lesson materials and homework assignments) per course, per week.** Challenge #1 - Knowing what 3hrs/week for the average student looks like, while also taking into consideration each student’s personal circumstances. Challenge #2 - The variety between teachers as some subjects lend themselves to small chunks each day, while others are better suited to a single post. The Solution to these challenges lies in everyone being flexible, patient, and understanding. We need to trust teachers’ professional judgement, and students’ commitment to learning, while following some guidelines.
- Students and teachers should be checking their emails/notifications daily, but everyone acknowledges that we are in an asynchronous learning environment. Teachers acknowledge that students might not be able to devote the same amount of time for schoolwork every day, and students acknowledge that teachers are reading emails during regular work hours. Please note that I have advised teachers against administering timed tests, but due dates remain in place to help students stay on track. Flexibility and communication are important. We are in this together and will find solutions together!

4. Why can’t every teacher use the same online format?

- Students will be navigating multiple online formats because some subjects lend themselves to certain online platforms, and some teachers have knowledge of one format over another. We currently have the majority of teachers using D2L and Google Classrooms. Others are using One Note, their personal websites, or emails. These are extraordinary times and I cannot thank everyone enough for rising to the challenge. Be reassured that teachers are only an email away and that support is available.

5. Can I still ask for tech support?

- There are a few Chrome Books still at the school that can be provided to students in need. Our first priority was to help students who were without access to any device. To date, we have distributed 81 Chrome Books. If your child is struggling with sharing a device, and would like to inquire about borrowing a Chrome Book, please email Principal Gilmore at ann.gilmore@dsbn.org.
- The government announced that they will be supporting students with ipads and wifi – but this refers to what we have already been doing by distributing Chrome Books. If your child is struggling with accessing wifi, please email Principal Gilmore. DSBN has access to wifi cards that can be distributed to those in need.