

The Priorities that Guide our Work:

1. Ensure the health and safety of all students, staff and school communities.
2. Implement systems and structures within our current context to ensure timely, thoughtful and transparent communication with staff, students and the broader school communities.
3. Develop opportunities for all students and staff to stay connected to maintain a sense of belonging, value and community.
4. Support all learners through the provision of continuous learning opportunities during the suspension of in-person classes.

Principal's Message:

I hope that this message finds you all well! We know that families have many things to manage, and so appreciate your continued support of our learners and learning!

Our first weeks were spent establishing contact with our community through email and classes in TEAMS. This was a huge undertaking for the District, and it has admittedly been bumpy. That said, the Churchill staff and community have a huge heart and a strong desire to connect. Thank you for your patience, persistence and support as we have worked to establish continued learning online!!

At this point, we expect that all students are regularly engaged with all of their teachers in some way or another. If you have a question or concern about a particular class, please connect with the teacher. There is no one prescribed way for teachers to teach in this new environment, each one is figuring out what works best for them, their students and their content. We have asked teachers that do not hear from a student over the course of a week to contact parents via email and phone. Please consider answering the telephone if you get a call from a blocked number... as teachers and counsellors working from home are using their personal phones to reach out to students and parents.

Thank you for all of the questions, which I hope to answer here. I will share your questions, concerns and suggestions with staff. More specific questions, about your child's situation, would be best asked and answered through email with the teacher, counsellor and/or grade administrator.

Questions from parents:

When can students retrieve their belongings from their lockers?

- Optional pickup of learning resources and materials is scheduled for April 28th – May 1st, and again on May 6th.
- We anticipate that there will be an opportunity before the end of the school year for students to retrieve their belongings, if they wish. Students at Churchill keep the same locker year to year, so those in grades 8 through 11 could just leave unneeded items in their lockers over the summer.

Would it be possible for teachers to follow the regular class time/block schedule?

- Teachers are following the Day #1 and Day #2 schedule and 4321 block rotation as much as possible. This is not possible in all situations. Where it is not possible the teachers are recording "classes" for students to view at another time.
- Please ask students to communicate with their teachers around scheduling conflicts.

Is there any way for teachers to post assignments and meetings by a certain time in the morning?

- Teachers would like to work 8:00 - 3:30, but while working from home, many of them are juggling childcare, grocery shopping for elderly parents and neighbours, and other health and safety priorities during this pandemic.
- Please communicate with your child that we do not intend for them to give up their spare time, family time, or sleep time to finish assignments any more than they would if classes were in session.

To date, the schedule has been quite irregular. When can we expect a resumption of a regular, predictable school schedule?

- Things are going to continue to improve, but we will not likely see the resumption of a regular, predictable school schedule this school year.
- Discussions have begun in the School District about September and what it might look like.

Could teachers assign the regular amount of class work and homework that they would have if students were attending physically?

- The District has asked teachers to make the workload appropriate and suitable for a student's grade level and circumstances.
- Please contact the teacher if you have questions or concerns.

Can we anticipate that TEAMS will be used long-term by VSB? And if so, will there be opportunities for TEAMS training for parents?

- We had begun using TEAMS before COVID-19, and yes this will definitely continue in some way.
- TEAMS information and video tutorials are available on the VSB website in the Continuity of Learning Hub (under Microsoft Teams Tutorials).
- Chatting in TEAMS has been problematic in the District, so has been disabled for the time being.
- Students have been reminded that all communication/conduct on TEAMS is to abide by the SWC Code of Conduct and the Acceptable Use Agreement that students have signed.

I understand that the grade/marks for this term will not affect the students' final grade. Will the grade/marks for this term be recorded at all on the student's transcript?

- Students will receive final marks in each of their courses on their June report cards and transcripts, just as they usually would
- Final grades will not be lower than the cumulative grade students would have attained on March 13th, had the school year ended on that date
- Schools will focus on support for students who were not achieving a passing grade as of March 13th
- Churchill teachers will send home Interim Reports in the coming week or two, where and when they are concerned about a student's achievement in their course/class
- A message describing the District's assessment plan will be posted on the VSB website

When does summer break start? Will there be summer school this break? If so, will it still be online?

- Summer will start as scheduled at the end of June.
- We anticipate that there will be some version (likely online) of summer school available. The focus of summer school is likely to be supporting students who require courses for graduation.
- More information about summer school will be available from the VSB soon!

Will all Grade 12 graduation events be postponed due to the current pandemic situation and if so, when will they be rescheduled?

- We are monitoring the situation closely, discussing options, and cancelling only when we absolutely have to.
- Options are being considered by the school team along with our student Grad Committee, at the same time as the District is exploring with secondary administrators what might be possible.

Are the bathrooms going to be updated to have proper hand washing ability for boys and girls? Right now you have to press the taps down with one hand to keep the water flowing.

- We have made inquiries about upgrades to the school's washrooms – taps, soap dispensers and hand dryers.
- Soap dispensers was a focus in all schools before Spring Break.

Is there a way to have social activities for students so that they have more social interaction?

- We will pass this question along to Student Council and staff and see if something can be arranged.

What specific plan has Sir Winston Churchill school for International students?

- We are in regular contact with the VSB International Education Department about our International Students, individually and as a group.
- We do not have any specific plans at this time.
- Questions and concerns about International Students should be directed to Mr. Pratt, our counsellor working with International Students.