

## **Secondary Principal Message to Families on Remote Learning**

Monday January 11, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With the rapid shift to remote learning and what was initially thought to be a one-week closure for elementary schools, adjustments were made to schedules for the first week back to support the transition. As we enter the second week of the closure, we are writing to share important information on what you should expect until students are able to return to in-person learning and about an opportunity to receive funding from the Government of Ontario.

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### **Number of Daily RealTime (Synchronous) Minutes**

The Ministry of Education has mandated that when secondary students are engaged in remote learning during the closure, students enrolled in a full course schedule should receive a minimum of 225 minutes per day of RealTime (synchronous) learning. RealTime learning will take place in the first three 75-minute blocks of each weekday, with the last 75-minute block continuing to be FlexTime learning where students can access online subject specific support from an educator.

### **Classroom Schedules**

Our school will now be running on the same schedule we had prior to the closure, but in a virtual format with all students being required to log into their morning classes every day. Your child's educator will provide additional information to students, if needed.

### **What Does RealTime Learning Mean?**

RealTime (Synchronous) Learning occurs in a variety of forms. It involves using text, video, or voice communication in a way that enables educators and other members of the school to instruct and connect with students in real time. Examples of what the teacher may provide during RealTime Instruction include:

- Whole Class Instruction and Discussion through Google Meet
- Time for students to complete assignments, assessments, quizzes or tests independently while the teacher is visible online and available to answer questions
- Whole group brainstorming or learning activities using online websites with the teacher
- The broadcast of a video or slideshow to the class with breaks for discussion and student learning activities
- Opportunities for student group work to complete learning tasks assigned by teacher and where the teacher is visible, online and available to students

## **Student Code of Conduct for Remote Learning**

Although students are now learning remotely from home, students are still expected to abide by the Student Code of Conduct at all times. Our school is committed to ensuring a positive and safe virtual learning environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, as within a regular classroom environment. The DDSB has created a one page document on the DDSB [Student Code of Conduct and Virtual Learning](#) that outlines the expectations of students and what parents/guardians are encouraged to do during virtual learning. Please take the time to read [this document](#) and encourage your child to participate in a positive way.

## **Government of Ontario Support for Learners**

The Government of Ontario is offering parents/guardians the opportunity to apply for a one-time payment to help offset costs due to COVID-19 during the 2020-21 school year.

Eligible parents or guardians will receive a one-time payment of:

- \$200 for each child/youth up to Grade 12\* (including students who are in secondary school that are over 18)
- \$250 for each child/youth up to age 21 with special needs

*\*Please note: Originally, the \$200 was only available for each child up to the age of 12. However, beginning January 11, 2021 Support for Learners is expanding to include students ages 13 to Grade 12, including students who are in secondary school that are over 18.*

**The deadline to apply for this funding is Monday, February 8, 2021.** For more information and the link to apply, please visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-support-learners>

On behalf of the entire school team, we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this challenging time. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, or your child's classroom educator if you have any questions or require support.

Sincerely,

J. Maharaj  
Principal  
J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate