



School District #82 (Coast Mountains)

KITIMAT CITY HIGH

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have some important updates to share from the Ministry of Education that were shared with schools this morning. I have summarized this information below for your reference, as well as my points of clarification in blue. Information in black is directly from the Ministry of Education. I apologize for the length of this post, but there is a lot of information that is important for students and parents to have at this time.

Will all students graduate? As in any given school year, those students on track or eligible to graduate will be able to graduate provided the student has completed sufficient learning in their coursework. This includes what they have learned since the course started, along with the learning they will complete from now until the end of the school year.

There is an expectation that students will continue to engage in their courses with teachers in a platform that can be supported at home. Students who do not participate in learning going forward will not meet minimal learning outcomes to receive credit for courses they are currently enrolled in.

What does “on track to graduate” and “eligible to graduate” mean? They mean the same thing. To be “eligible to graduate” means a student will satisfy all graduation requirements upon successful completion of courses they currently have underway and are continuing through to June 2020. This does not mean that students will graduate “no matter what.”

We are working hard to change our instructional strategies and practices to meet student’s learning needs in this challenging time. Every effort will be made to ensure that our current situation does not pose obstacles to students that are beyond their control. Teachers are setting up learning opportunities in their courses designed to allow every student to have success.

Eligible students who are on track to graduate in June of 2020 must have written their Numeracy 10 Assessment. We are awaiting information from the Ministry of Education to hear what the options are for the students who have not written this assessment.

What is considered “sufficient learning”? Sufficient learning means that a student would be able to pursue further learning in the curricular and content area based on what they know, understand, and are able to demonstrate. Sufficient learning will be determined by teachers using their professional judgement. Grounded in the curriculum, teachers will assess what individual students know, understand, and are able to demonstrate to determine whether enough learning has taken place to enable the student to pursue further learning in the curricular and content area. This is the case in any school year.

We recognize that this will look different in different content areas, and expectations for students will be amended based on this. For example, expectations for math or science might be different from elective courses. Rest assured that regardless of what courses a student is

currently enrolled in, plans for those courses will be made with student success in mind and expectations will be congruent with the major learning outcomes in each course.

Do students need to complete more course work in addition to what was completed prior to the suspension of in-class instruction? Yes, students are expected to continue their learning for each course they are enrolled in. If students are experiencing challenges with this, they should be working with their teacher and/or school principal directly.

We will be reaching out to students and families next week that we have not been able to contact up to this point to ensure that opportunities have been extended to all students and access to learning is equitable. We encourage parents and students to reach out to teachers with questions, and to administration if we can be of assistance.

How much course work needs to be completed? The Ministry is not mandating or specifying the minimum number of hours that must be completed for a student to receive credit for a grade 10, 11, or 12 course. Hours do not necessarily reflect the actual learning that occurs. The focus is on determining if, and how, sufficient learning has taken place during these exceptional circumstances. Students are expected to continue their learning for each course they are enrolled in and to complete assignments set out by their teachers to finish their courses. Teachers will work with students to develop plans and set reasonable expectations given the current circumstances.

Teachers are developing lessons, plans and opportunities that will cover the minimal expectations of their particular courses. Under the current circumstances, there is no way to expect that full course outcomes can be met. Every effort will be made to ensure that the essential learning outcomes for courses are covered, and that students will be prepared for the next level of a course, or for programming at the post-secondary level.

Will all students get a final grade for each course they are enrolled in? Yes, all students will receive a final grade for each course they are enrolled in and successfully complete from now until the end of the school year.

We will work with teachers to ensure that assessment practices under these conditions are fair and transparent. You can expect a term 3 report card to be prepared in the coming weeks to ensure that students and parents are aware of where students stand in each of their courses. These report cards will be mailed home to parents the last week of April. The marks will represent where each student was with their learning prior to spring break. Teachers can also communicate with students and parents earlier than that once they have their term marks completed.

Each student at Kitimat City High is working on a self-paced program. With the exception of grade 12 students that have met all Graduation Requirements. All other students will receive an in progress grade on their final report card. They will resume the course in the fall of 2020 unless the requirements of this course has been met before the final report card in June.

Will all students be given a passing grade, no matter what? **No, students will not be given a “free pass.”** Students are expected to continue their learning for each course they are enrolled in and expected to demonstrate that they know and understand the learning standards for successful completion of the course.

What about students who are enrolled in apprenticeship courses like Work in Trades? Can youth apprentices continue during school closures? Given the unique structure of trades training programs and oversight by the Industry Training Authority, important information on assessments and programming for these courses is available online. Information for workers is available on the WorkSafeBC COVID-19 information and resources web page, including: o What workers should do o Staying safe at work o Information specific to various industries School districts and schools will assess and determine if it is safe for their students to remain on work placements and apprenticeships during the suspension of in-person learning. For work placements that cannot continue in person, districts and schools will determine if alternate methods to continue learning are possible, such as working remotely from home. For elective courses like these with unique challenges, teachers have the discretion to provide a passing grade if sufficient learning has been achieved since the start of the course and through to the end of the school year.

If your student is currently enrolled in an apprenticeship program, these are coordinated through the North Coast Trades Education and Training Center (NTETC). You can contact them directly if you have questions that the information above is not able to answer for you.

Some parents are misunderstanding the Ministry's statement in regard to assurances about the issuance of grades; some are interpreting it to mean that their child's currently issued grade is what will stand, and their child no longer needs to participate in educational programming. How should we respond to this? Teachers across the province are empowered to determine a final grade for children based on work completed to-date and the assessment of participation in learning opportunities that will occur over the coming months. Teachers will work with parents/caregivers and students to ensure that students are engaged in appropriate learning opportunities according to their school/school district plans during the suspension of in-class instruction. In doing so, teachers will take into account those students whose learning needs or circumstances may necessitate unique approaches. Since some students may not have easy access to specific learning resources aligned to the curriculum, learning opportunities should focus on the development of competencies and key skills, rather than mastery of specific content. The Ministry is looking for opportunities to continue to support teachers, schools and school districts in developing effective assessment techniques in these unique circumstances.

You have our assurance that we are working hard to find ways to support all students and ensure that we are providing equitable access to learning opportunities. Teachers will be giving students ongoing feedback on their learning, and this will be communicated to parents as well. **The big message in this statement is that marks as of March break will not stand as a final mark in their courses.**

Will teachers have to prepare a summative report card for June? Yes, teachers will still need to prepare report cards for their students for June. The evaluation of learning taking place after the suspension of in-class instruction should be in relation to a smaller selection of learning standards which students are able to complete at home.

Teachers have the autonomy to determine which learning outcomes in their courses are "essential". This will be the focus as we proceed in a remote learning situation. These plans will be communicated to students and parents as they are developed.

If there are any other questions related to information in this email, please contact me directly at nancy.tormene@cmsd.bc.ca

Thank you,
Nancy Tormene – Principal Kitimat City High

