

## 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.

### 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 as we continue with Remote Learning

Our students continue to follow the Student Code of Conduct found on our website at <https://secondaryathome.ddsb.ca/en/students/resources/Documents/Student-Handbook-and-Code-of-Conduct-2020.pdf>. Our school is committed to ensuring a positive and safe virtual learning environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

## 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 students classroom educator if you have any questions or require support.

Sincerely,

Peggy Perkins, Alyson van Beinum

Principals of DDSB@Home Secondary