



Westmount Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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January 18, 2021

Dear Wildcat Families,

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! We hope that you are doing well.

As you know, our last few weeks of semester 1 will be completely virtual and remote. We wanted to outline for you what you can expect as we wrap up our first semester and what this might look like for our students.

School Year Changes

We have had many changes to our school year calendar including a late start date in September. Our last day of class instruction has also been changed to Thursday, January 21st. As per our original school calendar, many teachers prior to the holidays announced that Friday, January 22nd was the last day to submit course work. Knowing that our students have done some purposeful planning, we will honour Friday, January 22nd as the last date to submit course work and have communicated to staff and students that our last day of instruction is January 21st. Another change to the school calendar includes the cancellation of final exams.

Student Success/Credit Attainment Days

In place of our exam days, the week of January 25-January 29th have been repurposed as Student Success Days or Credit Attainment Days. These days are intended for students not on track to complete their courses, for students working towards course carry-over and for students on track who have not yet successfully demonstrated their learning of an Overall Expectation(s). Students and teachers should negotiate a learning plan to submit evidence of their learning for any course Overall Expectations not yet demonstrated.

Student Success days are structured to run from 8:40-11:10 am each morning with a specific focus on a period course. Please see the calendar posted for more information. Students can also view this calendar on their HUB page. Communication with teachers during this week will be virtual/remote via MS Teams, email or phone calls.

Students who are on track to earn their credit and have successfully demonstrated their learning are not required to participate on those days.

Carry-Over Process

Carry-over (CO) is a structure at Westmount that allow students to continue a course into semester 2 (or the following semester). Carry-overs are granted if students meet the unit count submission and if COs are agreed upon as the purposeful next step by teacher and student in their learning plan. Teachers will



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be completing carry-over forms over the next two weeks and contacting students/parents and guidance counsellors as to who is eligible. Students are to contact their guidance counsellor to make necessary timetable changes to schedule a carry-over into semester 2. Class spots are limited so please do so as soon as possible.

Next Steps

As we wrap up our semester please remember:

- Students on track are to ensure they have connected with their teachers to confirm there are no outstanding evaluations that need to be submitted to demonstrate student learning.
- Students not on track who are working towards a carry-over or looking to repeat a course are to ensure they have connected with their teacher to create a learning plan outlining expectations for participation during Student Success/Credit Attainment Week. This includes time/method they will connect with their teacher(s) as well as what work needs to be completed for evaluation. Students should also connect with Guidance and/or Learning Resource for any timetable changes or supports that may be needed.
- As caregivers, connect with your students to celebrate their successes and support the areas where your child may need additional assistance. If you have any questions or concerns, please connect with your student's teachers, guidance counsellor, student success teacher or learning resource teacher.

Semester 2 Start-Up

Based on the provincial restrictions, we know that semester 2 will begin virtually on February 2, 2021. We anticipate that if we are back on site after February 10th, cohorting will continue. If parents require an adjustment in student cohorts, are returning to face to face learning from remote learning or are moving to remote learning from face to face learning, please connect with Mr. Stepaniuk as soon as possible to make arrangements. More communication will be shared in the coming weeks about semester 2 start up when information has been finalized.

Thank you for your ongoing support, patience and understanding as we continue to adapt to the ongoing changes in education.

Sincerely,

Ms. Geeta Malhotra
Principal