

Happy New Year Harbord parents/guardians/students,

As we complete week 1, return from the Winter Break, and have fully engaged in our latest “Harbord remote-learning” period, I hope that everyone had a good first week and that students: you enjoyed re-connecting with your teachers and peers through your online platforms. Although our caring staff may not be physically in front of you, we are WITH you --- working together to help you learn and reach your potential while always keeping your health and well-being paramount. I hope that all of our students and families are safe and well. We’ve done this before, and we are collectively (students and staff) better at it this time around. Let’s all continue to work together with a fulsome appreciation that we are all ‘humans’ -- each having our own challenges during this time BUT collectively sharing a common expectation of ‘being the best we can’! Our teachers have done an amazing job leading the learning and along with our guidance counsellors, Professional Support Staff, and administrators, we will also provide the ‘shoulder’ to lean on, and ‘ear’ to listen to when needed...so please continue to share with the school how you are doing and feeling. We all matter...and learning matters!

Please read through **CAREFULLY** the **IMPORTANT** information below. In particular, please note the deadline to request a switch for Quadmester 3 learning is **January 11, 2021**. **No action is needed if no switch is desired:**

1. **Switching from In-Person to Harbord Virtual Learning for Quadmester 3 (deadline January 11, 2021)**

As per my last email communication prior to the Winter Break, students currently registered for in-person learning at Harbord who would like to switch to the virtual model must submit a request by January 11, 2021 using the following Google Form link: [Quadmester 3: Request to Switch to Virtual Learning at Harbord CI](#).

This change would take effect at the start of Quadmester 3 on February 8, 2021. We will prepare and finalize models in the coming days, as we get a better sense of the number of students interested in learning virtually. Please note that all requests from students wishing to switch to a virtual option at Harbord will be accommodated. However, in some cases, changes to desired courses in a specific quadmester may be required to align with availability and course offerings.

2. **Switching from the TDSB Virtual Secondary School to In-Person Learning for Quadmester 3 (deadline January 11, 2021)**

Students who are currently registered in the *TDSB Virtual Secondary School* and would like to return to in-person learning must submit a request by January 11, 2021 using the following Google Form link: [Quadmester 3: Request to Switch from TDSB Virtual Secondary School to In-Person Learning at Harbord CI](#).

The request will be looked at by both the VP’s and guidance counsellors to see if a timetable can be created for the specific courses they have requested for Quadmasters 3 and 4. If a timetable can be created, a transfer to the in-person school will be facilitated. Please note that **space may be limited, and a transfer may not be possible**.

Thank you to all TDSB Virtual School parents/guardians and students for your patience. We are doing everything we can to accommodate student requests while ensuring as much stability as possible in all classrooms and schools in this pandemic time.

3. **Switching from Harbord Virtual Learning to In-Person Learning**

Students who are currently registered for **Harbord Virtual Learning** and would like to return to in-person learning must have their **parents send an email request** to either Ms. Massey ([tamara.massey@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:tamara.massey@tdsb.on.ca)) who is responsible for students with the *last name starting from A to L*; or to Mr. Witt ([arnold.witt@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:arnold.witt@tdsb.on.ca)) who is responsible for students with the *last name starting from M – Z*. Requests will be reviewed and responses will be provided shortly thereafter.

#### 4. **Connections with Teachers and Mid-Quad Marks**

Similar to Quadmester 1, for Quadmester 2, there will not be formal parent/guardian-teacher conferences. During the time period of **January 11 to January 15**, parents/guardians and teachers who would like to connect to discuss student progress in a course will set up a mutually-convenient time to do so. In order to allow greater access and opportunity for parents/guardians to speak with teachers (given the different structure of the daily schedule in secondary schools), teachers may use up to two afternoon “synchronous” periods to schedule these opportunities with families and asynchronous learning will occur during this time.

Mid-Quad marks have been relayed to students via Brightspace or Google Classroom platforms this week. Please connect with your child regarding their achievement to-date.

Due to the current school closure, the printing and distribution of Quad 2, Term 1 Civics and Careers Final Report Cards will be postponed until a return to in-person learning the week of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Again, achievement results for these courses have been given to students. Like Quad 1, a Final Report Card for Quad 2 will be distributed prior to the end of Quad 2.

#### 5. **Reminders Regarding Virtual Learning (please share and discuss with your child)**

- Please review the attached TDSB Online Code of Conduct.
  - Please note the section that states “Users of the TDSB On-Line systems will not knowingly access, upload, download, **store, display, distribute or publish any information** that violates or infringes the rights of any other person according to the Toronto District School Board policies, Ministry of Education policies, the Ontario Human Rights Code, or the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms”.
- Please be reminded that when using the chat function during the virtual learning component of your courses, the content and language needs to be appropriate for school and adheres to our school expectations of student behaviour. Some students are forgetting that these chats are used for learning purposes and that they are in an educational environment (not a ‘social media platform’ environment).
- Please review the Quad 2 HCI Virtual Learning Expectations (also attached). This was provided and signed by students at the beginning of Quad 2. Students: please remember your commitment to being an **active, engaged learner during our virtual classes**...and be FUNonmenal!

Lastly, please continue to practice the health and safety measures following the most up-to-date Toronto Public Health directives.

“Harbord, we CARE for each other. TOGETHER. We are ONE!”

Thank you and have a wonderful weekend!

Steve Yee