

Hello Harbord parents/guardians and students:

Hope all of our Harbord families are continuing to be healthy and well. We are at the midpoint of our Quadmester 3 and we have some important information to share:

### **Quadmester 3: Request to Switch to Virtual Learning at Harbord CI:**

Earlier in the fall, we shared the decision that no additional students would be admitted into the Virtual Secondary School as this would require a significant reorganization of the system - something that would have a negative impact on our in-person schools and result in many courses having to be collapsed or eliminated. The Virtual Secondary School will continue to operate and support its existing students.

Students who are registered at in-person Harbord CI who would like to switch to a virtual model will be accommodated again with a virtual option at our local Harbord 'home' for the remainder of the school year. Our ultimate goal is to maintain stability for both in-person Harbord and the Virtual School, and to continue offering the courses that students need. As was the case for Quadmester 2 and Quadmester 3, the school-based virtual learning model at Harbord will vary from class to class and will depend on factors such as the number of students wishing to learn virtually and the available courses. In some cases, there will be enough students to offer an entire class virtually. In other cases, the class will be split into virtual and in-person cohorts. We have also included the model of teachers delivering courses simultaneously to both in-person and virtual learners.

### **Switching from In-Person to Virtual Learning**

Students currently registered for in-person learning at Harbord who would like to switch to the virtual model must submit a response by March 23, 2021 through the following Google Form link [REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN LEARNING OPTION](#). This change would take effect at the start of Quadmester 4 on April 23, 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. Specific information will be shared ahead of the start of Quadmester 4. 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 may be required to align with availability and course offerings.

### **Switching from the Virtual School to In-Person Learning**

Students who are currently registered in the Virtual Secondary School and would like to return to in-person learning at Harbord CI must request a change using the following Google Form link [REQUEST TO RETURN FROM TDSB VIRTUAL SCHOOL TO IN-PERSON LEARNING](#) by March 23, 2021, to see if a timetable can be created for the specific courses they have requested for Quadmester 4. If a timetable can be created, a transfer to 'in-person Harbord learning' will be facilitated. Please note that **space may be limited**, and **a transfer may not be possible**.

Thank you to all parents/guardians and students for your patience during this evolving situation. 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.

## **Switching from Harbord Virtual Learning to In-Person Learning at Harbord**

Students currently registered for Harbord Virtual Learning who would like to switch to in-person 'face-to-face' learning must submit a response by March 23, 2021 through the following Google Form link [REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN LEARNING OPTION](#). This change would take effect at the start of Quadmester 4 on April 23, 2021. As mentioned previously, 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. Specific information will be shared ahead of the start of Quadmester 4. Please note that all requests from students wishing to switch from Harbord Virtual Learning to Harbord 'face-to-face' learning will be accommodated.

## **School Council Meeting**

Our next school council meeting is a week today Monday, March 22, 2021 (5:30pm – 7pm) so come out and join us from the comforts of your home! The School Council Zoom meeting link: <https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/98060964094>. Everyone is welcome!

## **Tigertalk**

Please check out the latest edition of Tigertalk, our school newspaper at [harbordtigertalk.com](http://harbordtigertalk.com) or go to our Instagram @hctigertalk!

## **Mid-Quad Reporting**

The CIVCAR (Grade 10 Civics and grade 10 Careers) courses have completed on March 10, and final marks will be communicated to the students via emails to them (make sure you ask them)! The final report card for these half credit courses will be sent as a PDF file during the week of March 22 to March 26.

Our half-way point has just passed this week (on March 10) and if there are students at this half-way point that are below a mark of 50%, the parents/guardians of these students will receive an "email of concern" during the week of March 15 to March 19. The email will contain a template with the current Progress to Date; Mark; Absences; Lates; Reasons for not being successful in the course; List of outstanding assignments/evaluations; Action/Communication/Supports Offered and if a Parent-Teacher Interview is requested.

Finally, all students will receive their current marks from their teachers via the regular format of communication used in their classes (Google Classroom Assignment; emails; Brightspace etc.) during the week of March 22 to March 26. Ask them for this information too!

## **Course Selections and Staffing Allocations**

Course Selection is now complete! Thank you to our fabulous guidance team: Ms. Narula, Ms. Faulconbridge, Ms. Sud and Mr. Fung for their tireless work to get students registered in courses that will bring them success for the 2021-22 year. Staffing Allocations (the number of teachers assigned to HCI) will be given to schools at the end of the month. Our school Staffing Committee would then begin the process of making decision for timetabling for next year. TDSB has informed us that, as a Board,

schools are to plan for full in-person learning for September 2021. While we do not know the TDSB Secondary Timetable structure yet, we are excited for what school may look like in September 2021!

### **International Women's Day Assembly**

Celebrating the importance and achievements of Women is so important every year --- and this year is no different! I truly believe that the video is AMAZING as it includes so many key student groups in our school who represent ALL OF US. The video is not 'flashy' but informative and inspirational. Congratulations to our student groups who put the video together --- Let's continue to educate the world on the importance of 'pushing forward' and demanding the equal treatment of women. I am so impressed with our Harbord students' efforts --- especially during this challenging pandemic year! A huge THANK YOU! to student groups WACC, GEAR (Gender Equity and Rights), Bent on Change and the Harbord concert band. Special shout-outs go to Petra MacLeod and Zoe Spence were the two students who edited the video and were instrumental in communicating with the different groups. A very large 'applause' goes to Shai Rotbard-Seelig, our wonderful musician who put together the band segment. And of course, much appreciation goes to Ms. McNeely, the staff advisor who supported our students in this initiative. Like a father, I'm always proud of our students and am always happy to share in their beautiful work. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4U1Er7HQk>

Lastly --- as we enter this critical period of our COVID-19 vaccinations (where we can almost "see the finish line"), please do NOT let up and 'lower your guard'. We need everyone to continue to practice the health and safety protocols and follow the most up-to-date Toronto Public Health directives. Please limit your contacts to the people you live with in your household. Let's all stay focused, determined, and strong together. Let's keep looking after each other.

**"Harbord, we CARE for each other. TOGETHER. We are ONE!"**

Thank you and have a FUNomenal weekend!

*Steve,*  
Principal