

Hello Harbord parents/guardians,

Here is some important information as we head into the Holiday Break:

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 schools who would like to switch to a virtual model will be accommodated with a virtual option at their current in-person school for the remainder of the school year. Our ultimate goal is to maintain stability for both in-person schools and the Virtual School, and to continue offering the courses that students need. As was the case for Quadmester 2, the school-based virtual learning model at your school 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. Schools 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 schools who would like to switch to the virtual model must submit a response by January 11, 2021 through 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. Schools 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 by your school ahead of the start of Quadmester 3. Please note that all requests from students wishing to switch to a virtual option at their in-person school 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.

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 must contact the guidance counsellor at the in-person school by January 11, 2021, 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 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.

Attendance reminders/updates:

- Students are expected to attend classes regularly as we know that regular attendance supports student success.
- Attendance is taken twice a day for students who are learning in-person as well as those learning virtually.
- During the morning period, students who attend in person and virtually will have attendance taken by the teacher.
- During the afternoon synchronous period, students are expected to meet their teachers at the beginning of the period and attendance is taken at that time.
- During the asynchronous morning period, where students are learning independently, they are expected to follow their teacher's instructions on attendance-taking procedures which may include completing a Google form, send an email, respond to a question or sign-in to the virtual classroom by 11:00 a.m. to confirm their attendance in the asynchronous learning period.
- Calls will go out to parents/guardians to notify them about their child's attendance in the morning and afternoon periods.

Possible pivot to fully 'Remote Learning' post Holiday Break:

As per the email sent earlier this week from our Interim Director of Education, Dr. Kathy Witherow, the TDSB is planning ahead for the New Year and what learning may look like as we return to school in January. With the rising cases of COVID-19, the possibility of individual classes, schools or the system moving to remote learning for a period of time is possible. It is important to note that any decision on the closure of a school or the system is made based on the advice of public health officials or the provincial government and is not made by the TDSB. We have received no indication that schools will close, however, we do want to make sure we are prepared to implement any decision smoothly and efficiently and continue to support our students' learning and well-being. Please continue to follow the situation by accessing the TDSB website and following any communication made by the TDSB over the holiday break. You can also follow the school's Twitter account @harbordci for information. Most importantly, have your child access their Google Classroom for teacher instructions and information towards the end of the Holiday Break. Some other important preparation reminders:

- Ensure you have a working device at home.
- Ensure that the school has your correct email address.
- Login to teacher's online platform to confirm you have access. Your child should have done this with their teacher.
- Bookmark the [Student Virtual Learning IT Support page](#).

Lastly, to put us all in the Holiday spirit, please have a look at our school's Holiday Assembly Video put together by various clubs in the school and organized by our wonderful Student Council. It is FUNomenal! Check it out here: <https://youtu.be/pcgxXH3HIXA>

Remember Harbord: "At Harbord, we CARE for EACH OTHER. TOGETHER. We are ONE!"

Have a healthy and safe Holiday Break everyone!!!

Steve