

## **Hello Harbord parents/guardians and students:**

Hope everyone continues to be well during these challenging times. As we look to return to in-person learning on Monday, January 17, 2022, we recognize that there are many families and students who are anxious and uncertain about returning at-this-time due to the Omicron variant and higher cases in our hospitals. We will continue to do our best to maintain a safe and healthy learning (and working) environment for all of our 'Harbord family members' --- students and staff. SAFETY for our "Harbord Family" is our primary concern. An email update from the TDSB was sent to families last evening which included general information about our return. Please see the important information below that is more Harbord CI-specific:

### **SAFETY**

#### **PARENT/GUARDIAN CHOICE: IN-CLASS or SIMULTANEOUS LEARNING**

The safety of students and staff is paramount. We have heard from many families that although they believe that 'in-person' learning is the best for their child, at this time, they are making the decision to keep their child at home for the remainder of the semester for safety reasons within their family. To support all Harbord families and students for the remainder of Semester 1, and keeping in line with the TDSB's "Short-term Remote Learning Period" plan, Harbord parents may choose for their children to attend in-person or to learn from home as **we will have Simultaneous Learning for ALL of our classes. Students who wish to learn from home during this "Short-term Remote Learning Period" will simply access the Google Meet code or Zoom link posted in their class' Brightspace Platform or Google Classroom. All students will have access to the code or link for the remainder of semester 1.** For those students who wish to learn and connect with the teacher in person, our classroom learning resumes as usual. Attendance for all classes will be taken. Students who are physically present in class or who are actively engaged with the teacher virtually during the class period will be marked present (or late, if appropriate) by the teacher.

#### **STAFF ABSENCES**

As we anticipate that there will be staff shortages, when a teacher is going to be absent, (when it is possible) that teacher will alert parents/guardians and students in advance (via their online platform) and provide information about that upcoming class. In these cases, parents and guardians will be able to choose whether their child will remain at home and connect virtually to the simultaneous class, or attend in person. An occasional teacher will guide the learning for both the at-home learners and the in-person learners .

#### **MASKS**

The safety of our students and staff is paramount. Everyone in the building **MUST** wear masks at all times with a few exceptions--eating lunch and drinking. Please ensure your child wears a high quality, well-fitted mask that covers the mouth and nose or picks up one upon entry to school. Proper mask wearing helps us look after ourselves and each other.

#### **LUNCH**

Students should eat their lunch in the first 15-20 minutes of the lunch period. We encourage students to go home for lunch and/or spend time outside. Masks **MUST** be worn at all times during the lunch period, except when the student is eating for the first 15-20 minutes. Limiting time indoors without a mask will further help keep both ourselves, and each other safe.

#### **PROGRAMMING**

#### **FINAL MARKS**

Final marks will not be negatively affected by the final evaluations that take place in January. Final marks will reflect work done up until December 17, 2021, if the work done in January results in a lower final mark. Teachers will continue to assign work and culminating activities and provide feedback; however, this work will only be taken into consideration for Semester 1 final marks if it improves the student's mark. This means that a student's mark will not drop as a result of end of semester evaluations.

We expect that students will continue to learn and complete final assignments. We hope that this protection helps reduce stress in terms of marks because we know that the pandemic, school closure and other stressors are having an impact on our students. Teachers will continue to use flexibility and provide support to ensure no student is disadvantaged as a result of their personal circumstances related to the pandemic and the transition to remote learning.

### **MUSIC - BAND CLASSES**

The TDSB and Toronto Public Health has paused all in-person playing of woodwind and brass instruments in schools. For our Harbord band class **AMI101-2C**, as we have simultaneous learning, students who remain at home and access the instruction remotely will continue their curriculum learning and instrument-playing. For those students who choose to attend in person, they will be provided with alternative learning or theory work. Students of the **AMI101-2C** class will receive communication from their teacher Mr. Kane and like all other classes, **during this “Short-term Remote Learning Period”, students will simply access the Google Meet code or Zoom link posted in their class’ Brightspace Platform or Google Classroom. This simultaneous learning option allows Band students to complete their performance-based learning.**

### **GRADE 9 MATH EQAO**

Semester 1 Grade 9 math EQAO is cancelled.

### **EXTRACURRICULARS**

In-person extracurriculars are paused for the time being (for the remainder of the semester).

### **UPCOMING**

Monday, January 17 9:15am	COVID Safety Virtual Assembly for all students
Wednesday, January 19 *Late Start 10:00am	Professional Learning for Staff
Wednesday, January 26 *Late Start 10:00am	Staff Meeting
Monday, January 31 and Tuesday, Feb 1	Credit Rescue Days
Wednesday, February 2	PA Day
Thursday, February 3	Semester 2 Begins

### **Lastly...**

I am so proud of our collective ability to adjust, be resilient, and be able to weather the challenges together. **Harbord: “we ROCK!”**

**“At Harbord, we CARE for EACH OTHER. TOGETHER. We are ONE!”**

Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

Steve