



Sir Samuel B. Steele Junior Public School

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Ms. K. Kumar, Principal

Friday, December 18, 2020

Good morning Sir Samuel B. Steele Families!

Here are some updates:

Preparing for Remote/Virtual Learning

As we all prepare for a much-needed winter break, the TDSB is planning ahead for the New Year and what learning may look like as we return to school in January. As cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in Toronto, so too does the possibility of individual classes, schools or the system moving to remote learning for a period of time. 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.

So to ensure your family is prepared for any shift to remote learning — whether at the class, school or system level — please consider the following actions:

- 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](#).

To ensure every family has a working device at home, Sam B. Steele staff members have been connecting with families and providing them with a chrome book from our classrooms. I do understand that some of our families will need additional devices to engage in synchronous learning and my plan is to provide them **with additional devices on the morning of Monday, January 4th if pivoting to virtual learning becomes a reality.**

Parent/Guardian Survey - Switching Learning Models

Further to the email sent to all parents/guardians from the Toronto District School Board last week, I sent an email about the parent/guardian survey about elementary switching on Monday, December 14th. Please see below for the content of the email:

As you know, the next opportunity to request consideration for a switch between in person and virtual learning was originally scheduled for the end of January (to take effect on February 16). To help guide us in making a decision on switching that will best support student learning, **please complete the following survey by January 4th to indicate if your child wants to be considered for a switch between the two learning models:**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeCu9fTF4MAFK02GFZ4fyexLZPJd5ERm_duHWn-

[FM1WB8EmuQ/viewform?usp=pp_url&entry.2083735858=Sir+Samuel+B+Steele+Junior+Public+School](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/viewform?usp=pp_url&entry.2083735858=Sir+Samuel+B+Steele+Junior+Public+School)

While this survey does not guarantee that a switch will be possible, the information will assist staff as they consider next steps in the process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office.

Important Information for Families of Grade 3 Students (NEW Middle French Immersion Program – Grade 4 Entry)

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide NEW Middle French Immersion Program (begins in Grade 4), we offer an online process to apply. Please see the attached file for an important information package.

To apply for the Middle French Immersion Program (Grade 4 entry) for September 2021, applications must be completed online between **January 4 and January 29, 2021.**

An offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants and will be made in the weeks following the close of the application window. Please note: Families with an older sibling currently enrolled in a French program and who will be in attendance next year are still required to complete an online application for the new student. Please select the “sibling option” within the online application.

For more information about the Middle French Immersion (Grade 4) application process, please join us for a **Virtual Information Session** on one of the following dates:

- January 14, 2021 – 10 am
- January 21, 2021 – 7 pm
- January 27, 2021 – 7 pm

For more information about Middle French Immersion Program, available in multiple languages, please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/French-as-a-Second-Language-FSL-Programs>.

For more information about French as a Second Language programs, the application process and important dates, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/french.

Student Verification Forms

Few weeks ago, we sent home hard copies of **student verification forms**. It contains important information about your child. Please take the time to check through it carefully, **make any necessary corrections and send it back to the teacher.** We are going through each student’s profile to ensure we have the most updated information to keep your child safe in the school. If you need support in completing them, please contact the school office.

Thank you and have a safe and joyous holiday season😊

Krishna Kumar