



H.S. T.E.S.S.
High School Therapeutic Education Support Site
Edith Cavell School
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Principal Memo: Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Dear parents, guardians and students of TESS:

Phase Orange and student attendance:

This past week the NB Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jennifer Russell in conjunction with the Premier mandated Zone one (Moncton) and Zone two (Saint John) back into the orange phase. As a school staff, we have noticed a marked decrease in our attendance/engagement both yesterday and today. As a staff, we are concerned.

We understand that people have different levels of anxiety in dealing with the pandemic and want to ease parent's concerns in this area. Hence, this memo is to confirm that this is always the parent / guardian's prerogative to keep your child home. Having said that this year, students in Grades 9 to 12 are being taught using blended learning methods as part of the bring your own device(Laptop) initiative, which will supplement instruction in classrooms with distance instruction or personalized learning experiences.

Parents who have made the difficult decision to have children remain at home after moving to the orange phase will not be able to **receive work packages** at this time. Please continue to follow the guidelines provided for home schooling or if you have a student or family member who is immunocompromised.

At TESS where rotational attendance is necessary to comply with the physical distancing requirements, the implementation of blended learning methods is happening. However, when not physically in school, **students are expected** to be in contact with instructors and classmates regularly throughout the day to learn and collaborate. **Students can continue to learn full time**, whether at home or at school. Assessment of their learning and participation will occur including the awarding of grades.

Student attendance is tracked for each course by the teacher of that course. On the days when not physically in class, students may be asked by their teachers to connect remotely via Microsoft Teams or in other ways that demonstrates that each student is engaged and part of the ongoing learning. These decisions are based upon the educational needs of students, the operational plans of our school, and the creativity of the personalized approach to meeting the needs of each students.

We understand this may not be what parents and students hoped for but students and staff are making progress together. High School report cards were issued November 12, 2020 and virtual parent teacher meetings were scheduled November 20,2020 in the am. We could not accommodate all PT meetings at this time. If you wish to schedule one, please call 869-6026 to request.

I'd like to close by thanking parents and students for their collaboration and support during these different and difficult times. Most people are creatures of habit and with the change in the world this past year it has certainly effected society in so many ways. We encourage you to seek support where needed and we continue to wish our school community well. Together we can stay strong and continue to persevere. These perseverance and resiliency skills will be essential components in one's future success in our everchanging world.

On behalf of the TESS staff, thank you for your continued support during these times.

Yours in Education,

John Tingley

Principal – ASDE High School Therapeutic Education Support Site