

Bobcat Express



St. Stephen Middle School

Friday, January 7, 2022

Dear SSMS Families,

We are hopeful that everyone was able to enjoy the holiday break. While it was not the break many had planned, hopefully everyone found ways to connect and celebrate the season. As you are aware, due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, students will not return to school on January 10, but will move to home learning beginning on January 11. The provincial government has announced that this measure will be in place for at least two weeks and will be evaluated weekly.

We recognize that this situation is not how we hoped to start the new year and we are committed to keeping your child connected to learning and to one another during this period of home learning.

The home learning schedule is detailed on page two. Microsoft Teams will continue to be the online learning platform used at schools throughout New Brunswick. Starting on Tuesday, January 11, we will follow the regular daily schedule for each class, with each class period being approximately 30 minutes in length, instead of the normal 55-60 minutes. During each 30-minute block, teachers will be providing 20 – 25 minutes of direct synchronous instruction and will provide students with activities/work to complete in the afternoon. On Monday, the homeroom daily schedule will be posted in each homeroom Teams' site. (Please note that the provincial guideline for grades 6 and 7 is 120 minutes of online instruction/day and 150 minutes for grade 8 when students are learning from home.)

As before, loaner laptops will be available for students and please call the school if your child requires a laptop. Laptops will be available for pick-up starting on Monday, January 10. If you do not have internet access, please connect with the school and a paper learning packet will be provided. If you have any questions on Microsoft Teams, please see the information on page 2, or call the school. We are here to help.

Students may need to pick up items from their lockers and the school will be open during the following times on Monday, January 10. Students are asked to enter through their grade level door.

- 9:00 – 11:00 (Students with last names beginning with A-M)
- 12:30 – 2:20 (Students with last names beginning with N – Z)
- 4:30 – 6:00 (Anyone not able to attend earlier in the day; please enter through the main entrance.)

As Minister Cardy announced last week, there are plans in place to support the learning of students with individualized Personal Learning Plans and/or specific learning needs. A member of our Education Support Services Team will be reaching out to individual families to discuss their unique circumstances.



If you have any questions, please be sure to connect with us. Our main office line is 466-7311. Like everyone, we are hopeful to welcome back our students to in-person learning as soon as possible. For now, we will do everything we can to keep your child engaged in learning and with one another.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and happy 2022.

Thank you,
Bronwyn Tanner, SSMS Principal

SSMS Home Learning Schedule

Block #	Time	Activity
1	9:00 – 9:30	Each block will include 20 - 30 minutes of synchronous instruction for grades 7 and 8, and 20 - 25 minutes for grade 6. Teachers will assign work to be completed in the afternoon. Students will have the most success with their online learning if they have a quiet space to work, have their learning materials ready, personal phone off or out of site and a water/snack nearby.
Break	9:30 – 9:40	
2	9:40 – 10:10	
Break	10:10 – 10:20	
3	10:20 – 10:50	
Break	10:50 – 11:00	
4	11:00 – 11:30	
LUNCH	11:30 – 1:00	
5	1:00 – 1:30	
Afternoon	1:30 – 2:30	
		Students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 minutes/day of independent reading • 30-60 minutes of physical activity (depending on whether a student has PE on that day.) • Complete homework and assignments. Teachers will provide small group intervention, individual extra help, connect with families and prepare lessons.

Parents' Guide	 Microsoft Teams	Basic Teams help when using a computer.
	 Office 365	
<p>Open your Internet browser and go to portal.office.com. Log in using student email address and password. The email address is you child's school computer username followed by @nbss.nbed.nb.ca. The password will be provided by the school. (example: MikJon1234@nbss.nbed.nb.ca)</p>		

Technology Support Line

Call **1-833-453-1140** if you have questions about:

- Office 365 Pro Plus
- Teams
- OneDrive
- PowerSchool
- Desire 2 Learn (D2L)
- Wi-Fi

Students who have been provided devices by their school to support home learning due to medical or learning issues can direct questions to:
1-855-450-3287

SSMS Mission

Opening Doors to Opportunities
Challenge. Encourage. Achieve

Ouvrir les portes aux possibilités.
Défier. Encourager. Attendre

SSMS Vision

SSMS commits to providing diverse learning opportunities to foster productive citizens.

SSMS s'engage à offrir diverses expériences d'apprentissage pur développer des citoyens responsables et productifs.

Bronwyn Tanner, Principal Melissa Brown, Vice Principal