



Dasmesh Punjabi School
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

March 26, 2020

We have felt heartened by the support of all members of the Dasmesh community in recent weeks of uncertainty. Faculty and staff have been preparing to ensure continuity of learning during this disruptive period and have found several high-quality resources that will help to facilitate the delivery of many aspects of our exceptional program during the interruption of the academic year.

As you read below, you will see how the teaching excellence of the Dasmesh corps will support students' academic progress and well-being. It is important for students to establish personal school-day schedules, so that they can maintain a reasonable semblance of regular school routines. With the assistance of the staff, you will discover some new learning platforms to use as we begin our on-line instructional program. We will provide the digital links to these resources.

Please note that for the safety of everyone, we are instructing teachers not to contract with families to tutor Dasmesh students individually during the period of remote learning. Our teachers will be fully employed providing remote instruction, and of course, will be available to help students within the parameters of the remote learning schedule.

We want to acknowledge that we all - adults and children alike - function differently when it comes to uncertainty. As faculty and staff, we are here to support you in any way we can. Here is an outline of our expectations of students and how we intend to proceed in the coming weeks:

TO SET UP A HOME STUDY ROUTINE

- Set up required program accounts Class Dojo or Google Classroom
- Create a workspace that is as distraction-free as possible
- Post a calendar and class schedule in plain view
- Keep as much of a consistent routine as possible
- Consider other supplies you'll need to have such as pencils, paper, etc.
- On the plus side, there will be lots of time for family!

Teachers will use a variety of tools and entry points to preview, prepare, and engage students with content. In addition to "live" meetings via Google Classroom, Class Dojo and other platforms, teachers will also use digital tools for assessing student progress.

TYPES OF ONLINE LEARNING ENGAGEMENTS (will vary according to grade level)

- Video recordings and follow up projects

- Invitations to send photographic evidence of learning experiences
- Course readings (textbook, novel, packets) digital texts, podcasts, video content, recorded lecture
- Screencast lessons, etc.
- Reflective writing, journaling, guided note-taking
- Discussion boards to share or respond to audio, video, images, media etc.
- Assignment Submissions
- Writing, collaborating, peer editing on Google Docs
- Virtual labs/simulations
- Teleconferencing
- Home labs/ observations
- Remote Synchronous class
- Practice problems
- Research and writing projects
- Online assessments
- Formative assessments (remote or virtual check-ins, daily assignments, etc.)
- Summative assessments (quizzes and tests, projects, presentations, etc.)

These activities will be explained to the students during their remote class activities as the on-line instruction proceeds.

EXPECTATIONS AND ATTENDANCE

The Ministry of Education requires all schools to keep attendance records. The tracking of student attendance will vary according to grade:

Elementary (K-5) - attendance on class Dojo

Middle (6-8) - attendance on Google classroom and possible submission of daily assignments

Secondary School - attendance on Google classroom and possible submission of daily assignments

IN CONCLUSION

We plan to share many resources with you to help foster well-being across all dimensions of our programs. The whole child comes to school. It is important for our students to keep in touch as we try to nurture their intellectual, social, physical, ethical, and emotional well-being. Even in this time of mandatory “social distancing”, we want to avoid isolation by maintaining digital connections with teachers and friends.

While it can be difficult to find the positive in this moment, we can take this opportunity for our children to practice adaptability and creativity and to see these important elements modeled by the adults in their lives. They will see first-hand that collaborating, problem-solving, and maintaining a positive attitude lead to better outcomes. And, as global citizens interconnected with others throughout the world, children can learn that their contributions can lead to better outcomes for all.

Our faculty, staff, and administration are dedicated to making the best of this situation by providing an engaging learning experience and maintaining the sense of community that makes Dasmesh a uniquely positive and warm environment. No doubt our community will be stronger for having journeyed together through uncharted territory.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to one of us via email (accessible via our Faculty) to let us know how we can provide further support to your child or your family. We will be back in the office on March 30,2020. According to the Ministry of Education, schools can take the first week after spring break to plan remote instruction. Your child(ren)'s teacher will communicate with you during that week. For safety reasons do not come to school until further notice. School will remain open for a limited time (9:00 A.M TO 2:00 P.M) but in-class sessions are suspended till further notice.

Gratefully,

Jaspal S Dhaliwal
Principal