



RAYMOND HIGH SCHOOL

Box 240
Raymond, AB T0K 2S0
403.752.3381

March 23, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

It feels like it has been forever since school was postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19, however, it has only been one week! Within that time, our staff at Raymond High School has worked hard to set up an online learning environment where assignments, instructions and communication can occur. Many of you (students) have been in touch with teachers through Google Classroom and have either handed in or started working on assignments. Thank you for moving your education forward.

On Friday, Education Alberta released requirements for high school students. They are as follows:

Grades 10-12

- Education content will focus on specified and core courses required for high school graduation requirements, including language (English, French and French language arts), social studies, mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics.
- Content from other courses will be delivered where possible, and accommodations for students unable to complete courses are in place.
- Teachers will assign an average of **3 hours of work per course per week**, and will be expected to work with their students and parents on the delivery of these materials.
- **Grade 12 Diploma Exams are cancelled.**

Mr. Brett Ralph has reviewed and emailed every Grade 12 student regarding their credit count and graduation status. Should you need any more clarification please contact Mr. Ralph at brett.ralph@westwind.ab.ca.

Focus for the next two weeks:

Core classes. Most students will have 2-3 core classes. So based on the government's recommendation, students will spend 6-9 hours per week of course work (1-2 hours per day).

We understand that many parents have multiple students and access to computers can be a difficult juggling act. We will put out a schedule when teachers are hoping to live stream through Google Meet. The frequency may change as we go depending on the feedback from students and/or parents.

We are hoping that most, if not all students will be able to access and submit assignments through Google Classroom. If this is a problem, please call the high school (403.752.3381) or email darryl.salmon@westwind.ab.ca. We will work with you to make sure the students can complete their assignments.



QUESTIONS

WHAT DOES CLASS LOOK LIKE FOR ME?

This is new territory. We will do our best to provide educational opportunities for students to learn and progress. We do not want them to feel overburdened, stressed out or defeated. Classes will shift to an online environment. We are running all of our classes through Google Classroom. Most students can access their assignments through the Google Classroom App, if they have a smartphone or tablet. They can also access Google Classroom by going to classroom.google.com on any computer web browser. We also encourage all students to download the app Google Meet on their smartphone or tablet. This app provides an avenue for teachers to do a live question/answer period with their class.

WHICH COURSES DO I NEED TO FOCUS ON FIRST?

We will only be focusing on core classes for the first two weeks. We will re-evaluate how it is going in two weeks and slowly look at implementing non-core classes.

REALISTICALLY HOW MUCH TIME WILL I SPEND ON SCHOOL WORK A DAY?

We are trying to do our best to minimize the amount of work and stay within the guidelines from Alberta Education. If you have 2 core classes, then you may have about 1-2 hours of work a day, depending on how you spend your time. Keep in mind if you are multitasking while you are working (messaging friends, checking social media, getting snacks, refereeing your siblings' interactions) your work may take you longer than an hour or two to complete. Also, these recommendations are for the average student. If you usually take longer to complete tests and assignments, your daily allotment of time might be a little longer as well. Please be sure to send us feedback if you feel we are consistently missing the mark on the amount of work teachers are assigning. This will be a bit of a learning curve for us as well.

HOW DO I GET A HOLD OF MY TEACHERS?

We are hoping to use Google Classroom as the main source of communication between students and teachers. Students can use the "Stream" page to ask questions or look for responses to similar questions they might have. Teachers will be monitoring this page in order to give feedback.

WHEN CAN I ASK MY TEACHERS QUESTIONS?

You can ask your teachers questions anytime through Google Classroom. Teachers will be working their regular work hours. Teachers will do their best to respond to questions as quickly as possible. We are hoping to use Google Meet, where students can meet as a class and ask live questions to a teacher. This will happen as needed or arranged by the teacher. It is not a mandatory meeting but rather a highly encouraged opportunity to clarify, ask, or bring up any concerns about a topic that a student may have with a teacher present.

WHAT DOES ASSESSMENT LOOK LIKE?



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We are hoping that students and teachers can work together to continue the learning process. Students will be responsible to hand assignments/tasks in and teachers will assess and give feedback to all students.

WHAT IF I NEVER HAND ANY ASSIGNMENT IN OR NEVER PARTICIPATE IN THE CLASS?

We hope that this is not an issue. Our teachers are changing their delivery strategies in hopes of accommodating the students in their classes. It becomes difficult for a teacher to assess or know the abilities of a student if work does not get handed in. We will do our best to contact the student and the parents if assignments were not handed in or they cannot reach the student.

WHAT IF I CAN'T PRINT OFF THE ASSIGNMENTS?

You are not obligated to print off assignment booklets, or anything that is on the Google Classroom. You can use a blank piece of paper to write your answers on and submit a picture of your answers to the teacher. If you want to put your answers on a computer screen and submit a picture of your answers, perfect. If you want to have a Google Docs for each subject that you keep your answers on and share with the teacher, perfect. There should be many ways to accomplish getting assignments or tasks into the teacher.

CAN WE WORK TOGETHER IN GROUPS?

Depending on the assignment and the teachers' instructions, group work will be encouraged to be able to reach out to friends for a little help or clarification. If there is an assessment of sorts for marks, we would expect students (and parents to encourage their kids) to be honest and do the assessment by themselves. Some assignments may be open book, partner, ask the internet, etc., but some may need to be done by themselves without any help from anywhere. Teachers will clarify what resources can be used with an assignment/assessment.

We wish you all the best in this adventure. Please be patient with everyone involved. Students be kind to your teachers and parents. Parents be kind to your kids and their teachers. We will get through this. We hope to write an update every week. Thank you and have a great week!

GO COMETS!

Darryl Salmon
Principal

Rebecca Gerner
Vice Principal

Brett Ralph
Vice Principal