

Monday, January 4, 2021

Good morning Eastdale families and Happy New Year!

Although the break was different than in years past, we hope that you had a wonderful holiday and could create some special memories with your family.

Staff met this morning to plan out the upcoming schedule and expectations and should be connecting with students/families to communicate specific plans for their courses.

Please note that online learning begins on Tuesday, January 5th and attendance will be taken both in the morning and the afternoon. During the period of remote learning, we kindly ask that parents/guardians continue to report absences using our board's Safe Arrival program.

The schedule for this period will be as follows:

Block 1 (10:00 – 11:15): All students (both cohorts) online synchronous with their morning class/teacher.

Block 2 (11:15 – 12:30): All students continue with morning class/teacher in flex learning. Teacher is online and students work independently on assigned tasks accessing support from the teacher as needed.

Lunch 12:30 – 1:30

Block 3 (1:30 – 2:45): All students online synchronous with their afternoon class/teacher (same as prior to holidays).

Block 4 (2:45 – 4:00): All students continue with afternoon class flex learning either with course teacher or with assigned teacher (same as prior to holidays).

While nothing can fully replicate in-class learning, we recognize that students and families are going through different situations, emotions and challenges during this period. Even though we are apart, the Student Code of Conduct is still applicable during this time of Distance Learning and we are sharing some expectations for students and encouraging parents to support your child(ren)'s learning.

Technology Support

If your child is having technology issues, please contact their teacher and they will submit a help ticket which will be followed up by our school technician. If they have lost or broken their charger, you may go online at anytime to school cash to purchase a new one and then simply contact the school to book a time to pick up the new charger.

On the board website there a Google Classroom Tips & Overviews for parents and students. Go to DDSB.ca > Programs and Learning > Digital Learning.

Distance Learning Considerations:

Due to the nature of the on-line environment (digital classroom) of distance learning, special considerations and expectations need to be in place to promote the safety and well-being of all students in a virtual environment. All members of the school community are entitled to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect as within a regular classroom environment. Staff will promote responsible digital citizenship and monitor student conduct and intervene using Bias-Aware Progressive Discipline.

Student Expectations:

- 1) Be engaged in your classroom activities - ask for help if needed.
- 2) Complete your assigned work to the best of your ability.
- 3) Protect your passwords and only access your own account.
- 4) If posting or engaging in a video or video chat, adhere to acceptable use standards and follow your school dress code.
- 5) If posting information or videos as part of an assignment, please ensure copyright rules are followed.
- 6) All digital communications with others need to be done in a respectful manner and adhere to your School's Code of Conduct.
- 7) Report any incident of cyberbullying or harassment to a parent or school staff member. You can also complete a Report Bullying Now Form from your school's webpage.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to:

- 1) Be engaged in your child's learning - if needed, contact the teacher by email if your child needs assistance.
- 2) Support your child to complete their work to the best of their ability.
- 3) Encourage your child to participate positively and remind them of the Code of Conduct.
- 4) Allow the virtual classroom/live sessions to be focused between the educator(s) and students. Save your questions or comments for a follow up email if needed.

Please share these expectations with your child(ren), as appropriate. We are looking forward to seeing you next week and thank you for your adaptability to these changing circumstances.

Stay Safe,

Michelle Monk – Principal