

Friday, October 23, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please see below for a number of important updates.

### **Grade 9 EQAO Math update**

For the 2020-21 school year, EQAO will be field testing a new online and adaptive assessment for Grade 9 Academic and Applied mathematics courses. This field test will provide an opportunity for students to try this new format and will support the continued development of the assessment platform.

Students that are currently in a grade 9 Academic or Applied math class in Quadmester 1, will not be participating. Students in these courses in Quadmester 2 – 4 will be participating in this test.

Further details and resources such as formula sheets and sample tests can be found online through EQAO. <https://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/grade-9-math/parents/Pages/parents.aspx>

### **Quadmester Change Over**

The end of the first Quadmester is quickly approaching. The final day of Q1 classes will be on November the 12<sup>th</sup>. As the 13<sup>th</sup> of November is a scheduled Professional Development day for staff, Quadmester 2 begins on the 16<sup>th</sup> following a week one schedule. (Please see the calendar by going to the following link: <https://www.ddsb.ca/en/whats-happening/resources/Documents/Calendars/2020-2021-Cohort-Calendar-Secondary-regular-full-calendar.pdf> )

Like Quadmester 1, we will need to ensure that there is a class size balance between the two student cohorts to adhere to public health guidelines. As a result, this may require us to rebalance the cohorts as we head into new courses. While we anticipate minimal movement, there will undoubtedly be some that will have to occur. Students will be informed of their Q2 cohort and courses prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **Reporting of Student Achievement**

As of Friday October 23, families can access the midterm level of achievement for their child's courses through the Parent Portal at <https://ddsbps.ddsbsschools.ca/public/> . Please use this mark update to inform conversations with your child and/or their teachers about how to best chart their learning for the final three weeks of the Quadmester so they can meet with success. If you would like to connect with your child's teacher(s), please visit our website and under 'Our School' click on the 'Staff Directory' tab.

The first Quadmester will be completed on November the 12<sup>th</sup> with Quadmester 2 commencing on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Final Provincial Report Card marks will be distributed electronically during the week of November 23-27.

### **Take Our Kids To Work Day**

The Annual Canadian Wide, Take Our Kids to Work Day will be taking place virtually this year. The Grade 9 teachers were provided information about the event and are planning to deliver online resources on November 4th in the afternoon during their online classes.

### **Timetable Changes for Quadmester 2**

A friendly reminder that opportunities for Quad 2 timetable changes are ending. If your child requires a change in their timetable they need to contact Guidance as soon as possible. They can access the Timetable Change Google Form through the Eastdale website under the Guidance Department tab. Please fill out this form and a staff member from Guidance will reach out to you as quickly as possible.

### **DDSB@Home**

Families can still request to be added to the waitlist for DDSB@Home to be 100% virtual. Please keep in mind when making this decision that our current hybrid model at Eastdale is 75% virtual. If your child is struggling with the 75% virtual to achieve success you may want to discuss your decision with their guidance counsellor or their Vice-Principal. Transfers will likely not occur until what would normally be the start of Semester 2 or in our current circumstances, the start of Quadmester 3.

### **Safe Schools**

We are looking for community members to be on our Safe School team. The Safe School Team works on initiatives to create a safe and welcoming school for all stakeholders. Areas of focus include, Bullying Prevention and Interventions, Well Being and Equity. Meetings are held monthly and at this point are all virtual. If you are interested in joining our team, please forward an email to Janet Cairns at [janet.cairns@ddsb.ca](mailto:janet.cairns@ddsb.ca)

### **Homework Help**

Please check out the homework help section on our school website. This is an up to date list of academic supports we offer. Please reach out to your guidance counsellor if you need help accessing any of these supports.

<https://eastdalecvi.ddsb.ca/en/students/homework-help.aspx>

### **Student Success**

We realize this year is different from the way any of us have attended school and we want to ensure that we are all working together to support Student Success. We receive many questions about the various aspects of school in 2020 and we want to be sure that everyone is provided all of the support needed. In an attempt to provide the key information necessary to support students, we are reaching out to you. We are asking you to take a few minutes and complete the attached google form and let us know what questions you have, what information you need and any other area of the current delivery of school that you would like to know more. Our plan is to use the information provided to create information graphics and videos that we can share with our community.

Here is the link.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UJezhCOtbxkVx2SVxdN11eu9G83PGPwuoPzLdj3eU5Y/edit>

All information is welcome and we thank you in advance for your time and assistance.

## **Diversity Club Speaker Series**

On Tuesday, October 27 at 3 pm, Eastdale is offering a free virtual workshop (via Google Meet) on social justice and equity for all interested students. We have an amazing award-winning speaker lined up! Garrett Metcalfe has been an activist and educator for over 23 years and specializes in anti-oppression and social justice.

This is the first of a monthly guest speaker series Diversity Club is hosting. Stay tuned for future workshops!

### **Social Justice 101: A Call to Action**

Speaker: Garrett Metcalfe

Topics: Defining Equity & Social Justice, Power Systems, Ally Capacity

Date: Tuesday, October 27

Time: 3 - 4 pm


Register by October 26 through this Google Form <https://forms.gle/LPxxJdma66sbLYVr9> (You need to be signed in to your DDSB account to register.)


DIVERSITY CLUB PRESENTS ...

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 About our speaker: Garrett Metcalfe has been an activist and educator for over 23 years both within the public and private sectors specializing in anti-oppression and social justice. He works tirelessly delivering workshops challenging individuals and systems to critically examine the power structures in place that lead to marginalization and discrimination. Recipient of numerous national and provincial awards, Garrett brings his knowledge and passion to this increasingly important work.



## **COVID 19 Reporting**

Please note that Eastdale has only had 1 case of COVID-19. It appears that there has been some miscommunication in the media which may have caused concern. The case at Eastdale was deemed extremely low risk and there has been no contract of COVID-19 within our school. We continue to enforce and practice all of the health and safety protocols as set out by Durham Regional Health and the DDSB. Any positive cases will be communicated in a letter from the school. All details of protocols can be found on [www.durham.ca](http://www.durham.ca) in the 'schools reopening toolkit'.

We hope that you have a wonderful weekend. Please call or email the school anytime if you have any questions or concerns. 905-723-8027 or [eastdalecvi@ddsb.ca](mailto:eastdalecvi@ddsb.ca)

Sincerely,

Michelle Monk - Principal