

Message to Secondary Families RE January Changes

December 21, 2020

Subject Line: Changes to Secondary Schools in January

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Earlier today, the Ministry of Education announced that all in-person secondary schools will be closed to students to start the new year and that students will return to in-person classes on Monday, January 25, 2021. Secondary students will be learning virtually during this period.

We know that this change to in-person learning can be challenging for many, however, this is being done in accordance with the [Provincewide Shutdown](#) announcement to help stop the spread of COVID-19. We also recognize that this shutdown will have a detrimental impact on many families that we serve and our goal is to support your child through what may be an unsettling time.

Most Board staff including school administrators and educators are currently away for the annual two-week holiday break. As a result, all schools (including DDSB@Home) will be holding virtual staff meetings on Monday, January 4 in the morning and school staff will be checking in with classes on that day in the afternoon.

Secondary classes will resume virtually for both in-person schools and DDSB@Home on Tuesday, January 5. Schedules during the first week may look a little different to account for the child care obligations of families with elementary-aged children due to elementary schools being closed between January 4 to 8. More specific information will be forthcoming in terms of schedules on January 4, however, students should anticipate being engaged in RealTime learning every weekday morning starting on January 11 as the in-person cohorts do not apply when learning virtually.

Families of students in self contained special education programs (Practical Learning Program, Developmental Program, and Structured Learning Programs-Alternative Curriculum) will be receiving a separate communication tomorrow regarding programming options for your child.

We hope that all families can enjoy the holiday break with members of their household and find some time for rest and relaxation, understanding how difficult this year has been on everyone in our community. Please continue to follow the [advice of the Government of Ontario](#) stay safe over the break. We look forward to communicating further with you in the new year and thank you in advance for your understanding during this unusual time.

Sincerely,

Norah Marsh
Director of Education