



# WVSS Information Bulletin

## A Weekly Update of School Information For Parents and Guardians

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the entire staff at WVSS we truly hope that this email finds you and your family healthy and well.

The purpose of this email is to provide families with updates and information as we move into our third week of remote learning. Please understand that our intent is not to replicate normal classroom instruction, but rather to provide opportunities for home learning during this very challenging time. Our teachers have done an amazing job with this transition and all students should be fully engaged in meaningful learning.

There are many questions related to what assessment will look like during this unique period of remote learning. The information below is intended to provide as much clarity as possible around assessment and evaluation at this time. We will continue to update you as we receive more information and direction from the BC Ministry of Education.

We understand that many students will struggle with the loss of normal routines, remote learning and that each family and home situation is unique. During this pandemic and period of remote learning our priorities are to support student well-being and connection and to provide continuity of learning through learning activities that target “essential” curricular competencies that students are able to do at home. As a general guideline, assessment should focus on encouragement and positive, strength-based achievements. This period of remote learning should not negatively impact students’ cumulative marks if students are fully engaged in the learning offered to them.

Below are some guidelines that we have adapted from the Ministry of Education to support student learning and assessment:

- As indicated by the Ministry of Education, “Every student will receive a final mark, and all students on track to move to the next grade will do so in the fall.”  
**In Principle Yes;** however, students are expected to continue their learning and to complete the assignments set out by their teachers in order to complete the course.
- Teachers will determine a final grade for children based on work completed to-date and the assessment of learning opportunities that will occur over the coming months. Teachers have been asked to consider the challenges of remote learning and what is essential in each course.
- Assessed tasks should provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning in a positive and encouraging manner and should help students move forward with their learning.

- Assessment should focus on the development of skills and essential learnings rather than mastery of specific content.
- The evaluation of learning should be in relation to a smaller selection of learning standards which students are able to complete at home.
- If students are fully engaged in remote learning activities and assignments they should continue on their current trajectory with the opportunity to increase their final mark.
- Teachers will work with students to develop plans and set reasonable expectations given the current circumstances and the individual needs of students.
- Schools are tracking weekly student engagement to ensure students are safe and that they are receiving learning opportunities.

Lastly, we want to thank our entire school community for pulling together during this time. Our teachers, educational assistants, students and families have all come together to work through this challenge. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We will continue to provide you with regular updates and information in the weeks to come.

With regard,

Steve Rauh