

June 19, 2020 - Student Update

Student Survey, School Reopening Plans and Community Involvement Hours

With the end of this most unusual school year almost here, I wanted to reach out, express my appreciation to you for your support and patience as we navigated such uncertain times. The challenges you have faced have not been easy, but you should be proud of your accomplishments in these uncertain times.

We also started a collective journey of learning and understanding racism and privilege. I want to acknowledge the many students who have called out the need for change at the OCDSB. We have heard your voice and we acknowledge that there is much work to be done to prioritize the dignity and well-being of students in inclusive and caring classrooms. We remain committed to that work and in the fall will share a roadmap for Equity and Indigenous education at the OCDSB.

Student Survey 2019-2020

Today, we released the first summary report of the student survey that was conducted in 2019-2020. Our thanks to all of the students who completed this survey. The results demonstrate the rich diversity of the OCDSB student population and provide data the school board will need to address the concerns that have been raised about streaming, achievement gaps, over representation of certain groups in suspension and expulsions, and sense of safety and belonging. The data will help us to identify trends and patterns, which will allow the District to take action to address structural racism and systemic barriers. You can learn more [here](#) . Stay tuned - next week, we will have a summary infographic of the report.

Ontario school reopening planning for September

This afternoon, the Ministry of Education released the Ontario government's reopening plan for schools in September. To deal with uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the Minister provided three scenarios for school in the fall. Each district may be different depending on the health situation at the time. The three scenarios are:

1. Normal school routine with enhanced public health measures.
2. Modified school day: Based on public health advice and would involve limits to class sizes and modifications to timetables and lesson planning.
3. At home learning: Should the school closures be extended, or some parents choose not to send their child back to school, school boards need to be prepared to offer remote education.

You can read more details from the Ministry [here](#) .

The OCDSB has been busy planning for next year and will now be able to align our work with the Ministry direction. Next week, we will be sharing more information and inviting your input.

Community Involvement Hours (Grades 8-12)

We know that many students want to volunteer and be of assistance to their community in any way that they can, and we support and encourage these students. We have established a new process which allows students to submit hours online. In the short term, we are asking students to submit their hours using this [Google Form](#) . For more information visit the [OCDSB Community Involvement Hours webpage](#).

Celebrating All Students

This year, we want to recognize and celebrate every student - you have much to be proud of. We recognize that for students changing schools and for our graduates, it has been especially difficult. Schools have been working on tributes and acknowledgements and I hope that you have enjoyed those special moments.

For our grade 12 students, signs are now posted at all OCDSB secondary schools celebrating the Class of 2020. These will remain onsite until the end of June. If you take photos in front of these signs - please respect physical distancing guidelines and send us a copy! All secondary school websites will have a Class of 2020 page. Photos and tributes shared with the school can be posted there. If you do not want your photo posted, please contact the principal.

Have a good weekend.

Camille Williams-Taylor
Director of Education