



URSULINE COLLEGE CHATHAM

CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Mr. R. Power, Principal Mr. R. Baggio, Vice-Principal Mrs. L. Harnarine, Vice-Principal Mrs. M. McCrae, Vice-Principal

Dear Lancer Parents and Students,

Welcome back Lancers. I hope that you and your families were able to enjoy a blessed Christmas despite the limitations placed on families these past few months. As you know, the Premier of the province has indicated that the **return to school for Monday, January 4, 2021 will be remote learning**. This means all secondary students, including those taking co-operative education, will participate in remote learning.. **Teachers will use google classroom to connect with students daily and to continue learning digitally through to Friday, January 22.** It is our expectation that students engage in learning every day, which may include some of the following:

- Being online for a lesson, teacher presentation, or other activity
- Submitting assignments
- Communicating with the teacher and/or classmates
- Doing independent work
- Participating in tests/quizzes/assignments as they are assigned

During the first day back, Monday, January 4th, you can expect your teacher to reach out to your son/daughter to ensure they have access to technology and are prepared to commence learning in a Google Meet.

The expectations of blended learning that continues until January 22 are very different from the remote learning provided in the spring. **Every student will be expected to attend and to submit all assigned work.** Student work will be assessed and evaluated with the same integrity as in a face to face format. It is very important that our students remain engaged and complete their assigned school work as we look to end the semester on Thursday, February 4.

The layout of the school day will remain the same. Students will have the same 8:15 am start time, lunch time and 2:15 pm end time as they did when they attended the school in person. Their virtual day will have 225 minutes (75%) of synchronous learning with their classroom teacher and 75 minutes (25%) asynchronous (independent learning). Their schedule of courses has not changed; Period 4 continues on Monday, January 4th and Period 3 continues on Monday, January 11. Attendance during daily google meets will be taken in the same manner and at the same time they would have been when they attended the school in person for both the morning and afternoon sessions.

Daily School Attendance:

Please call or email the school secretary each time your child is absent from school and not participating in their lessons for the day. If the student is having tech issues, please also communicate to the school office or teacher, and refer to the information below.

Technological Support for Families:

SCCDSB is committed to assisting our student families in their learning at home journey. If you need help using Chromebooks, logging in, or connecting to your home internet, our Helpdesk is available

by sending us a form detailing your request at <http://helpdesk.st-clair.net/>. For more information please refer to the **Working With Technology** page. For information on internet access please refer to the **Home Internet Providers** page.

Students Experiencing Challenge:

Students that are having challenges completing the school work are asked to connect with their classroom teacher, guidance counsellor, program resource teacher or Mr. Dunlop (jim.dunlop@sccdsb.net) our Student Success Teacher. Our support staff remains in place and is very interested in helping all students find success.

Change in Learning Model:

During the extended learning closure students will not be permitted to change learning platforms for this quadmester. Requests for changing models for second semester will be considered until January 12, 2021. Remember that the current decision to move to virtual is a short term strategy and that students are expected to return to face to face learning on January 25, 2021. Once the second semester commences, students will remain in their current learning option until the end of June, 2021.

Resources for Home as we switch to Remote Learning:

To support student learning at home, families can also access resources through the Ministry of Education's Learn at Home online portal. These resources do not replace what students have been learning at school; however, the Kindergarten to Grade 12 online learning resources may support students' learning at home during the COVID-19 school closure period. Additional resources curated by SCCDSB staff are available here:

1. **SCCDSB Parent Learning Hub** <https://hub.sccdsb.net/>
2. **School Code of Conduct: SCCDSB Virtual Code of Conduct**
3. **Ministry of Education** Learn at Home online portal.
4. **Supporting Learning From Home: SCCDSB Parents Guide to Home Learning**
5. **Understanding Virtual Learning for Parents: What to Know about Virtual Learning**
6. **Always Ready for Learning: Always Ready for Learning Link**
7. **How to navigate a Google Meet**
8. **Communication Guidelines during distance learning DISTANCE LEARNING GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS AND STUDENTS**

Privacy:

The Board's Privacy Office created a fact sheet (Virtual Classroom Guidelines for Privacy and Security) to support educators, students, and families to teach and learn in virtual environments with privacy in mind. Students and their families are required to follow these guidelines when participating in both "live" (synchronous) classroom activities and those that allow students to contribute as they are available (asynchronous classroom activities.)

So as we venture into the virtual return to school, let us continue to be people of hope who celebrated the birth of Jesus, who shared a powerful message of love and salvation. Please reach out to us if you need help or guidance, and remain confident that we are here to support you, as we walk together as a hope-filled community, learning together today to transform tomorrow.

Prayer for Strength for this Challenging Time

*We pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through this challenging season.
We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences.*

We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and all who are caring for them.

We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable to not succumb to the risks of the virus.

*We pray for misinformation to be curbed that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds. As we
exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide, may we also approach each day in faith
and peace, trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us. AMEN.*

Sincerely,

Ray Power

Principal