

Distance Learning and the Student Code of Conduct

Tuesday, 5 May 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope this message finds you safe, healthy, and well!

As we enter the second month of Distance Learning at Brock High School (and with continued physical distancing and school closures), I'd like to thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. It has been wonderful to see the school spirit that so many families have been displaying virtually and we encourage you to maintain connections with one another.

While nothing can fully replicate in-class learning, we recognize that students and families are going through different situations, emotions and challenges during this period. Even though we are apart, the Student Code of Conduct is still applicable during this time of Distance Learning and we are sharing some expectations for students and encouraging parents/guardians to support your child(ren)'s learning.

DDSB Student Code of Conduct and Distance Learning

Students participating in Distance Learning will be expected to abide by the School Code of Conduct at all times. All members of the school community will continue to be responsible for adhering to the expectations in applicable legislation, policies and procedures and our regular school Code of Conduct.

For your convenience, we have attached the Code of Conduct and Discipline for Students Policy to this e-mail.

Durham District School Board schools will focus on prevention, early intervention with progressive discipline, and restorative practices as the key supports to maintaining a positive, safe, welcoming, respectful, accessible, equitable and inclusive virtual learning environment, free from discrimination in which students can learn and educators can teach. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, all staff members will utilize a range of interventions, supports and consequences that are developmentally appropriate, that include opportunities for students to learn from mistakes, that consider mitigating factors, and that focus on improving behaviour.

Distance Learning Considerations:

Due to the nature of the on-line environment (digital classroom) of distance learning, special considerations and expectations need to be in place to promote the safety and well-being of all students in a virtual environment. All members of the school community are entitled to be safe and to be treated with the dignity and respect expected within a regular physical classroom environment. Staff will promote responsible digital citizenship, monitor student conduct, and intervene using Bias-Aware Progressive Discipline.

Student Expectations:

- 1) Be engaged in your classroom activities - ask for help if needed.
- 2) Complete your assigned work to the best of your ability.
- 3) Protect your passwords and only access your own account.
- 4) If posting or engaging in a video or video chat, adhere to acceptable use standards and follow your school dress code.
- 5) If posting information or videos as part of an assignment, please ensure copyright rules are followed.
- 6) All digital communications with others need to be done in a respectful manner and adhere to your School's Code of Conduct.
- 7) Report any incident of cyber-bullying or harassment to a parent or school staff member. You can also complete a Report Bullying Now Form from your school's webpage. <https://reportnow.ddsb.ca/>

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to:

- 1) Be engaged in your child's learning - contact the teacher by email if your child needs assistance.
- 2) Support your child to complete their work to the best of their ability.
- 3) Encourage your child to participate positively and remind them of the Code of Conduct.
- 4) Allow the virtual-classroom/live-sessions to be focused opportunities between the educator(s) and students. Save your questions or comments for a follow-up email, if needed.

Please share these expectations with your child(ren), as appropriate. While it will be a little while longer until we can welcome you back to our school, we thank you for your adaptability to these changing circumstances. It has been truly remarkable to see our school communities working together and finding new ways to build connections with one another.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and be well!