

April 20, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers:

As we begin our third week of supporting our families and learners from a distance, I want to send out what has been happening at EBUS since we returned from spring break and provide you with some information regarding the weeks ahead.

I'm hearing that the majority, if not all, of our full-time families and students have had the opportunity to connect by phone or by video messaging, to check-in and share how things are going amid these extraordinary times, and to begin shaping next steps for our learners. If you missed your call from one of our teachers, you may have received a warm voice recording or perhaps an email inviting you to make a connection. I have heard from our staff regarding these connections and just how much they have enjoyed reconnecting and how much you, their students and families, have appreciated the social connection:)

As you have been busy adjusting to the new reality of social isolation, we too have been adjusting to working from home and collaborating with our colleagues from a distance. The best way to connect with your teacher, the help desk or an administrator is to send an email, and if you would like a real time conversation please provide a time or times that you would be available for a phone or internet call. We are doing our best to support your students' learning during this pandemic.

Under the directive of the ministry, all schools are doing their best to support the continuity of learning during these difficult times. What this means for EBUS students is that all students who were on track to complete their grade or courses by this June will meet that goal, provided that they demonstrate 'sufficient learning,' which will include what they had accomplished prior to spring break as well as the learning that their teacher has assigned for the remainder of this school year. All students should connect with their teacher directly or visit their Moodle course(s) to see what changes have been made to help them successfully complete. For any students not on track to complete by this June please know that, in consultation with your teacher, requests for more time to complete beyond June will be considered.

Where are we now and what can you expect in the weeks ahead?

Elementary Students

- Teachers have reached out to K-6 families, and we understand that daily routines at home may look different. We encourage parents to share the challenges they are experiencing so that we can support you as best we can.
- Moving forward, teachers will support parents in focusing on the big ideas of curricular areas, in particular the essential competencies for literacy (reading, writing, listening and oral language skills) and numeracy (math).
- Learning submissions in these areas will be the focus for the remainder of school year; you can expect feedback and regular communication from your teacher.
- There are virtual classes for elementary students to be a part of at EBUS. Where possible, we encourage parents and students to join a Vclass and keep connected to our EBUS Community. For a full schedule of Vclasses, please visit Vclass Valley in Moodle.
- Our fifth point of progress for the year is approaching. Parents will be invited to attend a short parent-teacher conference between Monday April 27th - Friday May 8th. For those of you who have already had a conference with your teacher following spring break, this will be optional. An interim report summarizing progress in literacy and numeracy at this point in the year will be published to students' dashboards on Monday May 11th.
- A final summative report card will be sent home on Wed June 24th.

Middle Years and Secondary (Grades 7-12)

- Our teachers and academic advisors have reached out by phone, email or within Moodle courses and are working hard to understand and to be responsive to the many challenges facing our community across the province. Students are encouraged to visit their courses, review messaging from teachers, and reach out to teachers, if you are struggling to meet your goals or if you are unsure of what is expected.
- In the weeks ahead teachers will be making changes to their courses, focusing on the essential learning outcomes and reducing the number of assignments where applicable. This will look different for each subject, especially those courses with choice projects - so be sure to contact your teacher should you have questions.
- The EBUS invigilation policy has been amended to be more flexible and respectful of the social distancing guidelines we are all following and additionally, in some courses, you will see less invigilated expectations and / or alternative assignments in lieu of final exams.
- The term 3 report card will reflect your student's achievement level and progress in their course as of April 17th. Should you have concerns about your learner's mark, or the amount of progress made in the course, please connect with your teacher immediately.
- Your teachers will continue to assess and provide feedback as they would normally, and do their best to provide help as needed from their home offices.

Graduating students

- If you have completed the course, or have at least 50% complete, your mark will be uploaded directly the Ministry of Education on April 24th.
- At this time, if you have applied to a Post-Secondary Institution (PSI), that PSI will be able to access the marks necessary to make admission offers.
- Grade 12 and adult students can view and order their transcripts to be sent to PSIs, prospective employers and themselves on the Student Transcripts Service at: www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca/. Students must create a Basic BCeID account to access their information. Students need only complete their PSI selections once in the current school year. Students should make their PSI selections by **May 1, 2020**, but if needed, may add to their selections at any time through July 10, 2020.
- A reminder to grade 12 students, for whom EBUS is your full-time school, connect with Mr. Mushumanski about scholarship and bursary opportunities that are available to you.

Thank you for choosing EBUS, for your understanding during these difficult times, and for working together with us to support your children.

Sincerely,

Brian Naka Barb Ziler Megan Boniface

Your EBUS Administrative Team

<https://ebus.ca/> - For the latest updates: Invigilation policy changes, summer@EBUS, contact info and more!

The Ministry of Education has developed [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) on Continuity of Learning