



SECONDARY COMMUNICATION

March 20, 2020

Dear Parents of Secondary (Grades 7 to 12),

In the wake of Alberta Health Services' decision to indefinitely cancel all classes, it is most rewarding to be part of a community that is endeavoring to bring purpose and stability during a time of question and doubt. Our goal as teachers in Secondary is to provide a continuity of learning, with our CWA Interim Home Learning program, to all students in Grades 7 to 12.

This morning, Alberta Education provided an [update](#) to all schools regarding the present state of affairs in education. The most salient point in this communication is that all diploma exams for this semester (to have been written in June 2020), have been cancelled. Such a decision impacts our Grade 11 class (Math 30-1 and Math 30-2) and Grade 12 students (Chemistry 30 and Biology 30). Our teachers are now adjusting their course planning accordingly and will communicate with their respective classes what adjustments will be made regarding their assessment practices.

Since the implementation of the CWA Interim Home Learning program on Wednesday, March 18, I have observed the following:

- Teachers are calmly confronting this new reality with creativity, teamwork, and a shared determination to make this situation work for the students so that they can continue to learn.
- Teachers are reporting high student participation rates in their classes and work assignments.
- Teachers are learning the appropriate amount of work to expect from students per class.
- Our students are responding cooperatively and positively.

As parents, we require your support in the following areas:

- Encouragement to your son or daughter that they continue to participate in the daily routine of school; that they continue to attend and respect class times, and complete the work as assigned.
- Vigilance - in this time of increased use of technology, we ask that you monitor the use of technology in your household. Please see the [CWA Student Internet Use Policy](#) that our students adhere to when in school. We expect that these expectations transfer into their new learning environment, namely home. No students are allowed to record teachers' teaching and then share these lessons digitally to others.

During this past week, it has been a surreal experience to walk the empty halls of Clear Water Academy. Though we dearly miss our students, I have been amused with what I have witnessed during the past two days of teaching, for example:

- Imagine as I venture through Athlone Hall, and I see Mr. Oryschak's arms flailing in the air, bellowing, "What is the chemical bond?" to an empty class. Then, his retort is, "Fantastic answer..." as one of his students has responded to his question, online.
- "Please do question 5," insists Mrs. Volschenk, as she taps her answer key with a document camera digitally recording her every move.
- Some of our students may have witnessed a cameo appearance of young Bennett South (Mr. South's four-year-old son) in the online lectures Mr. South is conducting from home.

It is very apparent that regardless of the platform used by teachers, from online delivery to more traditional approaches such as work packages being sent home via email, teaching is continuing to move forward.

While we are very happy with the inaugural start of the CWA Interim Home Learning program, I want you to be aware that our professional focus, in the next few days, will be on effective assessment practices in this new teaching environment.

My final conclusion from observing all that is going on in the school is that our faculty miss the students very much and, truth be told, some of our students have already revealed to us, that they miss school too. We extend our prayers to all families; may you be safe and find strength together as a family.

Blessings,

Darren Forrester

Head of School