



## SECONDARY COMMUNICATION

May 22, 2020

Dear Parents of Secondary (Grades 7 to 12),

In this communication, I would like to focus on two elements that are prominent features of our final month of the school year, namely: the celebration of our graduates and the final assessment of our students in secondary.

### **1. The Graduating Class of 2019-2020:**

We are adamant that the present circumstances will not dampen our desire to celebrate the wonderful young men and women that constitute our Graduating Class of 2020.

Below is an outline of our plans to celebrate this milestone for our Grade 12 graduates:

- During the remainder of this current school year, we will profile our students on Instagram (@cwacalgary) and a Graduating Class video will be virtually shown to all CWA families on June 12.
- Two celebratory Google Meet sessions with the students and their respective families will take place. The first will be dedicated to speeches and toasts to the students and parents; the second will be for our year-end awards to the graduating class.
- Throughout the remaining weeks of school, we'll be conducting a number of surprise celebrations to express our love and admiration to our impressive grade 12 graduates.
- Finally, we believe that our graduating class deserves the blessing of our school and the pageantry of a real graduation. On Friday, October 9th, 2020, a Graduation Mass and Formal Dinner and Dance will be hosted by the school (while following all the health and safety guidelines).

Clear Water Academy is very proud of our Graduating Class of 2020.

Parents of the grade 12 students - Mrs. Volschenk sent an email yesterday evening with more details about the plans for the Graduates of 2020 (dates, times, etc.), please make sure to check your email. A virtual meeting with the students in grade 12 also took place today (Friday, May 22) at 2 p.m. and the graduation plans were shared with them.

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## **2. Guiding Assessment Principles for Secondary Faculty:**

Since the inception of the CWA Interim Home Learning Program, secondary faculty have employed the following principles in their assessment of student learning:

- **Teachers know their students best.** Teachers are well-positioned to tailor their assessment practices to best fit the needs of their class(es) during this time. As a result, there is no uniform policy that will dictate how term 4 and final year-end marks will be determined. Each teacher has been employing the assessment practices for their classes that allow students to demonstrate their learning, and individual teachers will render the decision of how final marks are determined for each of their classes.
- **Teachers recognize and acknowledge that these are challenging times for our students.** As such, the shared belief amongst our faculty is that we need to make assessment decisions that help students achieve the necessary learning outcomes to move into their next grade. We want to give our students every opportunity to show improvement in their performance. Such opportunity implies that each student will take advantage of what is offered by sincerely and diligently doing their work. Final marks for each student in secondary will reflect their level of engagement.
- **Teachers are monitoring student engagement and progress during this time of challenge.** It is typical of our secondary students to work hard and to produce their best effort. As a faculty, we know that we are fortunate and we appreciate the dedication of our students and we expect them to continue along this path with our Interim Home Learning program. However, if a student seems to be becoming unengaged, our teachers will communicate with you, the parents, so that your child can re-engage in the learning process.

Should you have any questions about your child's performance in any class, I encourage you to contact their teacher. Please also feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Blessings,

Darren Forrester  
Head of School