

Dear Grade 7 and 8 Students,

It has been brought to my attention that there are students in Grade 7 and 8 who have not been attending the remote classes consistently, not participating in class as much as they should or not submitting all of the assignments. The teachers are concerned, and I share that concern.

Due to the pandemic and province-wide lockdown, we will be required to stay in remote learning, at least until February 10th; if last spring is any indicator that could be extended. I recognize that online learning cannot replace in-class learning and that online learning is a challenge for many but under the circumstances, it is the best option available. For the majority of the second term, you are going to need to complete your education through remote classes.

You cannot wait until classes resume in the school to start working hard. You will need to attend your remote classes, ask questions, participate fully and complete and submit assignments as you would in an in-school classroom. **Most importantly, participating fully in school maximizes your learning and helps to develop the skills and knowledge needed for success in secondary school.** Grade 7 and 8 curriculum and classes are designed to help you be ready for success in Secondary school and to give you the best opportunity to attend the program and the secondary school of your choice.

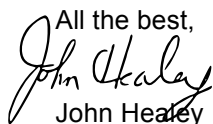
Report Card: Full participation in classes, remote or when you are in the school, is also critical to allow the teachers to accumulate the evidence they use to write a **fair and accurate assessment of you on your report card**. If you choose **not** to attend classes, or to **not** submit assignments or to **not** participate when you are attending classes, the teachers will have limited information and opportunities to accurately judge your ability as a student. On a report card, the teachers can only report on the **skills, knowledge and abilities that you have demonstrated**, **not the skills, knowledge and abilities that teacher thinks or knows that you are capable of achieving**.

In Grades 7 and Grade 8, your report cards are a big factor when you apply to secondary school.

- Report cards are the **primary evidence of your abilities as a student**.
- Our Grade 8 students have already started that process, and their Grade 7 June 2020 report card and the November 2020 report card were required to be considered for placement in programs or schools that they wanted to join next year. A secondary school that you want to attend can choose to say no to your application based on the contents of the report card(s).
- For Grade 8 students, once you have been accepted by the secondary school, there is an expectation **that you continue to maintain or to exceed the levels of success** in your March and June report cards of 2021.
- Grade 7 students need to work hard to put themselves in the best position to be able to successfully apply to the Secondary school of their choice next fall, and then to be successful in Grade 8 and then Grade 9. **That preparation started at the beginning of Grade 7 and must continue until Graduation in Grade 8.** That is why you must take advantage of the remote classes. The time cannot be made up. If our remote classes are a challenge for you, please ask your teachers for help.

If you have not been participating fully in the remote classes, because you find them difficult, or don't like them, or are waiting for classes to resume in school, then **that needs to change**. By the time that we can return to classes in Bond Academy, most of the marks and observations for the **Second Term report card** will have been recorded. You will need to start **participating fully in remote learning now** to ensure the best possible Second Term Report Card and to be best prepared for a successful Term 3.

If you have any questions, please ask your homeroom teacher for clarification or you can email me at johnhealey@bondacademy.ca. I am also available to meet with your class remotely to answer your questions if that is your preference.

All the best,

John Healey