

May 21, 2020

Dear King David Students and Parents,

I hope that you are all doing well – I find it difficult to believe that we are in the latter half of May. As we get ready for June and finishing the school year there are a few things I wanted to share with you.

First and foremost is that we are so grateful for the incredibly positive attitude both our students and parents have had in this challenging time. Our teachers have shared so many kind words about our students. I know that in class it may not always seem that way to our students as teachers try to create a 'normal' environment for our students but I can assure you that they are truly appreciative of the effort that has been made in these circumstances.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation we have made a few changes to our school calendar and we would like to share them with you:

1. Thursday, May 28: Classes will be canceled as staff return to school to be trained in safety protocols for our return to in-school instruction for students who will be attending Monday, June 1 (more details on which grades will attend will come out later next week).
2. Year End Celebrations (YEC) will be held remotely this year. The new date is Wednesday, June 10.
3. Our Graduation Ceremony has moved to Thursday, June 18 for a student only event (with other fun activities for families)
4. There will be no final exams this year.
 - a. The last day of classes for Grades 8 through 10 will be Thursday, June 18.
 - b. The last day of classes for Grades 11 and 12 will be Friday, June 12.
5. Teachers will be available to work with students after the last day of classes as necessary for individual students.

Finally, a word about Term 3 grades and final course marks for the year. The Ministry of Education (MOE) let all of us know that any student who was in a position to pass a course prior to the cessation of in-school learning would pass their course. We know this has been an exceptionally stressful time for students, parents and teachers. Teachers have had a particularly difficult role in trying to create structure for students, to teach so students can learn, to assess student learning, and to try and hold students accountable while keeping them motivated and engaged. I may have a bit of a bias here but I think our staff are doing an outstanding job in all these areas.

So, in terms of marks, please know that for any student who has made a good effort this term, completed assigned work, and who continues to make a good effort to the end of term, nothing that happens in Term 3 will cause their final mark to go down. Students who have not made this effort may find that Term 3 does negatively impact their final grade (there is still time to remedy this situation). If a student's work has improved, teachers will most definitely take that into account when calculating final grades – given a choice we will always choose to put a student's best foot forward. With final exams removed, and our ceasing instruction for our senior students days earlier, they will also have time to speak with their teachers to work on a plan to demonstrate greater learning to possibly improve a mark. We are not doing this for our younger students unless it is the difference between a pass and a fail as these grades are not so critical for post-secondary applications.

One final reminder – Alex and I will be online at 4 p.m. today if you want to join us for a conversation or you have some questions ([click here by noon today to sign up](#) or send me an email if you miss the

deadline). For those of you who cannot make that time we will send an email on Friday with answers to common questions.

Stay well everyone!

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