

May 5th, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Caregivers,

While we are separated by physical distancing and school closures, which are necessary at this time to reduce the spread of the coronavirus / COVID 19 in our world, it has never been more important for us to keep in touch! It is my pleasure to reach out to you again with an update that will be of interest to all students, especially those in their Grade 12 graduating year.

Semester 2 Calendar Update – Secondary School Examinations

As a result of the [Ministry of Education's announcement](#) last week, final exams will **NOT** take place for second semester courses this year. Instead, examination days for Semester 2 will now be instructional days, where students will continue with distance learning activities.

This means that teachers may decide to provide assignments or tasks that allow students to demonstrate their learning. As stated in my [letter to you last month](#), the grade on any learning task will only be used in the calculation of a final mark on the June report card if it **improves** the student's overall mark from March 13th, before school closures. We want to ensure that students are given every benefit for their learning during this crisis.

Prom and Graduation Update

The local Medical Officer of Health has informed the UCDSB that we need to remain vigilant as it relates to COVID 19. The situation is evolving daily, with new cases of the virus being recorded in our region.

Given these developments, and the current provincial emergency order limiting gatherings to less than five people, public health officials have told school districts across our region that **proms and other social gatherings in large numbers cannot take place**. We understand that this is very disappointing for our senior students who were anticipating this milestone event, but we have been consulting with our student leaders about possible alternatives they might consider given these unprecedented times.

I know that our senior students and families are also wondering about the status of our graduation ceremonies next month. All UCDSB schools will be required to follow the direction of our Chief Medical Officers of Health regarding whether it is safe to hold events of this nature in June. At this time, we have not received any direction on these events so, we have not made a decision on how or if we will be able to proceed with graduation exercises.

John McAllister
Chair

Stephen Sliwa
Director

These are important events for our graduating students and we will share information with you and our students as it becomes available so that we can all plan accordingly.

Grade 12 Midterm Marks

Our Grade 12 students were provided midterm marks for Semester 2 last week. Those marks were also forwarded to the Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) and the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) for the May 1st deadline.

Deadline for Dropping Semester 2 Courses – Wednesday, May 6th

Provincial policy from the Ministry of Education provides students with a timeline of five instructional days after midterm report cards are issued to withdraw from a course and not have the mark subject to disclosure when applying to colleges and universities. This year, however, the Ministry of Education has provided students with additional time, extending the timeline to Wednesday, May 6th.

Summer School Update

The UCDSB will be continuing its tradition of offering interested Grade 7-12 students the [Summer Semester Online program](#), operated by the [TR Leger School of Adult, Alternative and Continuing Education](#). The program is offering 47 courses online that students can do anytime and anywhere they have access to the internet, earning additional diploma credits over the month of July. The Summer Semester starts on June 29th and ends July 27th. For more details please contact our Student Services Department at either sean.ofarrell@ucdsb.on.ca or sherry.maclachlan@ucdsb.on.ca or visit the [Upper Canada District School Board's website](#).

Please take care and stay safe,

Sincerely,
Chad Brownlee
Principal.

CC: Deanna Perry, Area Superintendent of Schools;
Tara McRae, School Council Co-Chair;
Margo Poirier, School Council Co-Chair.

John McAllister
Chair

Stephen Sliwa
Director