

Parents/Guardians,

In light of recent events, we would like to clarify some points regarding students who have chosen to not attend school in person.

The Eskasoni School Board has taken steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19, going above and beyond what is required in Nova Scotia public schools by implementing a hybrid schedule, which reduces the frequency of students having to attend class in person and also reduces the number of students in the school on any given day, and ensuring that buses and classrooms are disinfected frequently. With the recent increase in the number of active cases of COVID-19 in the Central Zone (Halifax area), some parents and students have made the decision that they do not wish to attend classes in person. While we understand the fears surrounding COVID-19 and wish to support parents in their decisions, there are some things you need to know.

Classes are continuing as usual. Students, who are choosing to stay home from school and do "At Home Learning," are still responsible for their class work. If students are not completing assignments in their Google Classrooms, then this will be reflected in their final marks. Class work is posted to the classroom on a regular basis and should be completed in a timely manner so teachers can complete assessments and move through the curriculum associated with each course.

The role of the teacher has not changed. Teachers will make every reasonable effort to ensure that class materials are posted online, however, some work done in class does not translate easily to online work. Teachers are required to provide online learning resources three days per week and to prepare in-class lessons two days per week. Students are required to complete these assignments. If students are having difficulties with the curriculum, then it is their responsibility to contact the teacher. Classes are continuing for the foreseeable future. Students can use email or Google Hangouts to ask questions. Teachers will do their best to respond promptly, however, they may be teaching lessons during school hours and are not expected to respond outside of school hours. Fridays are available for face-to-face help when the school has a limited population. A one-on-one meeting could be set up for students who need that type of interaction on Fridays as well.

Eskasoni School Board and their Teachers are committed to providing the best possible learning environment for all the students of Eskasoni during these tough times. We need your support to successfully prepare our students for their future and create a stronger Eskasoni.

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Newell Johnson