



## ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE ARGYLE SECONDARY SCHOOL

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April 3, 2020

Dear Argyle Families,

It has been an extraordinary week. Those that preceded it have been full of rapid change, as we experienced massive shifts in our everyday lives as a result of the threat of COVID-19 and the global crisis we all face. This week brought some refreshing light to our world and held the promise of the new things that can come from such a time of challenge. We acknowledge the wide range of challenging circumstances within the Argyle community and our larger NVSD community.

As indicated in yesterday's message you should be receiving an email from each of your child(ren)'s teachers by the end of today. This email serves as an initial re-connection. It will outline how students will interact with their teachers next week, primarily through email and Microsoft Teams. If you have questions about a particular course, please reach out to your child's teacher by email. Teacher emails are listed on Argyle's website [here](#). Broader questions related to learning at home can be directed to the grade administrator. We expect a range in the type and depth of contacts that teachers will make, as each teacher is unique in their own style and the tools that they are using.

Remote teaching and learning is new for all of us; learning opportunities will continue to evolve and grow in positive ways as we all become more comfortable using online communication, different resources, and learning platforms. We are in a unique situation and it is not possible to replicate every part of the instructional programs that were in place prior to spring break. We have asked teachers to create a program that focuses on competencies, concepts, skills and content that is essential to success at the next grade level. We also recognize the need to provide opportunities in a manner that are socially and emotionally sensitive in the context of the additional stress facing our community right now.

NVSD's preferred method of delivery will be through Microsoft Teams. All students have access to the Office 365 suite using their school login credentials. These are the same credentials students use to login to any Argyle computers and access the NVSD Portal. The quick start-up guide sent out yesterday is also posted as a banner at the top of the [Argyle webpage](#). Classes previously using other online learning platforms such as myBlueprint or Scholantis may continue to use those platforms. MS Teams is a powerful platform and something your children will continue to have access to during their years at Argyle.

The Ministry of Education [letter](#) from March 17<sup>th</sup> provided the following guidance to all school districts:

- All students will receive a final mark in their courses.
- Students on track to move to the next grade will do so in the fall.
- Provincial assessment for grades 10 and 11 have been postponed.
- Grade 12 students who have not written the Grade 10 numeracy assessment will have an opportunity to meet this graduation requirement. (Fortunately our grade 12s with the exception of a very small number of international students have already written this assessment.)
- Finally, the Ministry of Education has pledged to work with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training on admissions and the smooth transition of graduating students.

We want to remind families to please take a moment to review your child(ren)'s Term 2 report card posted prior to Spring Break on the [MyEd Portal](#). For instructions on how to access report cards click [here](#). In time, teachers will provide students with a projected final grade based on assessment data collected from the beginning of the school year up until spring break. In most cases their mark will be very close to their Term 2 mark as there were only two weeks of instruction and assessment after Term 2 closed. Students will be given opportunities to enhance their current mark as students' marks will not fall while learning at home. We understand that everyone is in a different situation. It is important that students engage in the learning opportunities provided by their teachers as the skills and concepts are essential to their success in the next grade level and in their continued development as a learner.

Students with a current course marks of Incomplete (I's) or Failing (F's) should make resolving their "I" a priority as they are currently not on track to complete their course. If further clarification on the requirements of their Incomplete report is needed please have your child email their teacher.

In our planning for the continuity of learning we recognize that some students in our school community face unique challenges in their learning which may be intensified while learning at home. Argyle's Learning Services Teachers (LSTs) and Counsellors have started checking in with some students and families to start a conversation about Educational Continuity Plans. Our LSTs and grade counsellors will continue to be available to support your child(ren)'s learning – the best way to reach them is through email.

We have created a plan for students to access essential items from their lockers on Monday next week. Please review the plan and schedule which is part of this email carefully.

We know that many parents are working from home, looking after other family members, and are focused on the safety of loved ones. These are stressful times and we want to remind you about document sent out by the Superintendent "[Ways to manage stress and anxiety and support our children](#)".

Please know that everything we are creating is with a view of providing a sense of connection, normalcy, and routine that keeps your child(ren) engaged in their education.

Warmest regards,

The image shows three handwritten signatures stacked vertically. From left to right, the signatures are: Kim Jonat, Caren Hall, and John Crowley. The signatures are in cursive handwriting.

Kim Jonat, Principal  
Caren Hall, Vice Principal  
John Crowley, Vice Principal