

May 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Since 2017, the British Columbia Ministry of Education has included the Core Competencies of Thinking, Communication and Personal and Social Responsibility into the curriculum. These three broad-based Core Competencies are sets of proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep and life-long learning (MoE, 2017). As part of these changes, the Provincial Student Progress Report Order was amended to include the requirement of an annual summative self-assessment of student growth in the three Core Competencies. Further information can be found at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>.

At Carson Graham, our students will be completing an annual summative self-assessment of student growth in our 5 IB Approaches to Learning Skills (Communication, Social, Self-Management, Research, and Thinking.) The Approaches to Learning (ATL) are a unifying thread throughout all subjects at Carson Graham. The ATL provide the foundation for independent learning and encourage the application of their knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Developing and applying these social, thinking, research, communication and self management skills helps students learn how to learn.

Over the course of the year, your child's teachers have integrated both the ATL and self-assessment into their lessons. Teachers have engaged students in the practice of 'noticing, naming and nurturing' these competencies in all aspects of their learning. Students have learned to identify and assess their strengths and areas of growth, set goals, regularly assess their progress in relation to their goals and establish a plan to reach their goals – all part of the ATL self-assessment process.

The annual summative self-assessment is not teacher-evaluated or graded, but rather based upon each student's reflections and what they choose to share about their learning journey. The self-assessment is a strength-base reflection based on evidence students choose from their work across the curriculum. Students reflect on artifacts and respond to question prompts. Students reflect on 3 different artifacts (sample pieces of work) they are proud of from this past school year. These 3 artifacts should demonstrate students' strengths and growth over this year in the 5 ATL skill areas.

In past years, students have completed the self-assessment of the Approaches to Learning with their teachers at school. With the suspension of in-class instruction, students will complete the self-assessment at home, with guidance from their grade administrator and IB Coordinators and as needed, from their parents. Information regarding the process for completion of the self-assessment is included in this email. We hope this additional means of communicating student learning results in valuable conversations between parents/guardians and your children.

In June, we will be sending home instructions on how to access your child's completed self-assessment of the Approaches to Learning. We encourage parents/guardians to engage in a conversation with your child about "why" and "how" they generated their conclusions and how the evidence they chose supports their reflections. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Suzette Dohm
Principal, Carson Graham Secondary