

Principal's Report for November 30th Parent Council

COVID

-We have made it to block 4 with no COVID cases at IEWSS or any south region TLDSB schools.

-Reminders are given regularly on the announcements to follow the COVID protocols. Students have been very compliant in the school and in the bus loading zone, but many students are still taking off their masks and standing in close proximity to each other when away from the school or under direct supervision.

-Masks are provided daily for students who have forgotten them

ACADEMICS

-Looking at the data obtained for credit accumulation, the results are quite astounding. We've had a 99% pass rate in each block this semester. 60% of the credits attained in the last block had marks between 80-100%, and 24% of the credits were in the mark range of 70-79%. Only 5% of the marks were in the 50-59% range and 1% were below 50%.

This data is certainly discussion fodder for the senior administration within the board, as the results at all the other high schools are also seeing higher achievement in the octoblock schedule.

Although we weren't able to have a gathering or the Honour's Assembly, we did create a video production that mimicked the usual process, and awards and programs were distributed to the families of those who attained honours.

It has been very challenging for teachers to finish teaching one block, and start the next block the following day, as normally exam days would allow time for marking and the creation of marks, comments and learning skills for report cards, but we have still managed to meet the reporting deadlines that are expected of us.

LEARN AT HOME

There were less students looking to move to learn at home for block 4 than there were for block 2 and 3. We did have students return to mainstream learning from the LAH program to start each block.

EXTRA-CURRICULARS

Unfortunately, sports and other clubs have had to remain cancelled to avoid cohorts mixing. Jen Lacombe organized a Halloween drive by event at the school which featured some scary artwork created by her media students. Pete Downey organized the Terry Fox golf tournament on a weekend where social distancing measures were put in place.

Our board is currently not allowing the photography companies into the school, so we do not have updated pictures for our database or yearbook. One of our teachers, Paul Marshall, has taken the initiative to have pictures taken of our graduates. While these are not professional grade photos with professional grades lighting and editing software, it will allow us to create a grad book for our graduates. We cannot create a yearbook in a 22 day block schedule- the yearbook class would normally run as a combination of a semester long photography class followed by a semester long yearbook course to allow for the editing and creation of the book. This was not possible to do in two 22 day blocks. There would also be no other material to include in the yearbook, as there are no clubs or extracurricular activities.

TRANSPORTATION

We were hoping to have the buses leave as soon as we could after dismissal to avoid students mixing and lingering around the school, but the transportation department could only allow the buses to leave five minutes earlier than originally scheduled. This was frustrating for us as school administrators as it creates challenges to keep the students in their cohorts. We have created waiting areas in the front hallway for the second wave of bus students to wait with their bus cohorts.

Staffing

With the new octoblock schedule, we have had a higher number than usual of new hires within all of the high schools. Fortunately we have been able to staff all of our courses adequately. We will be losing two of our more experienced staff members before Christmas. Our guidance secretary Mike Rose will be retiring in mid-December. With him leaving, we will have replaced every one of our office staff members since I started at IEWSS last September. We are also losing our head caretaker Eden Paulson, who will be taking over as the facilities manager for the TLDSB. Brad Neild will be our new head caretaker, starting after the holidays.

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