



WEEKLY BISON TRACKS

DREAM/RÊVEZ, BELIEVE/CROYEZ, ACHIEVE/ACCOMPLISSEZ

Dear EIPS parents,

We've received some questions following the letter I sent out Monday about assessment and evaluation. I wish to apologize if I caused anyone additional stress or anxiety, and I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify some of what we shared and better communicate our intentions around student final grades.

First, please know I understand that many families find the new alternative learning model challenging. I know, too, that parents and students face a wide variety of personal circumstances that make keeping up with class meets, assignments and projects difficult. Despite the best of intentions, schoolwork cannot always be a family's priority when they're already dealing with so much.

It's the responsibility of EIPS educators to engage, inspire and motivate students to complete the work they're given, to the best of their ability, during these unprecedented times. Ensuring our students continue their learning during COVID-19 is essential in ensuring they're not further disadvantaged while schools are closed. Assignments, projects and other assessment tools enable us to get a solid understanding of what the student knows and helps us prevent gaps in understanding that may impede students' abilities to move forward in their learning when they ascend to the next grade.

We recognize not all students will be engaged in alternative learning at the same level, and I can assure you that the Division will take this into consideration and respond with flexibility and understanding when assigning final grades. When teachers assess a student's work, they take into account everything they know about that child including—but not limited to—the progress the student made up to March 15, the student and family's particular situation, and the nature of their engagement with their teacher following the closure of schools. Although the tasks assigned to students remain important, students will be given the benefit of the doubt wherever possible. Assessing marks during alternative learning is not intended to be a punitive exercise, but instead both a measure of the progress a student is making and a tool for teachers to know how adapt their approaches.

I want to reassure you that all students who were on track to progress to the next grade will do so—including students that have not been able to engage in alternative learning. In these instances, a final mark will be awarded using term 1 and 2 marks only, and a corresponding comment related added to the report card.

In reference to the comment in my previous letter that stated marks could go down, this provision is most relevant for senior high students, where credits are awarded, and percentage grades are used for assigning a final mark. Because final high school marks are used for entrance requirements and scholarships, accuracy and integrity in our reporting is critical.

In closing, I encourage all parents to engage with their children's teachers when possible and to collaborate on ways to learn that will work best for your family. Again, we rely on our teachers' professional judgement and understanding of each student's unique situation to provide a fair and accurate assessment of their progress.

I am confident we will get through this difficult time together and look forward to the day when we can welcome children back to the classroom again.

Sincerely,

Sandra Stoddard
Associate Superintendent, Supports for Students



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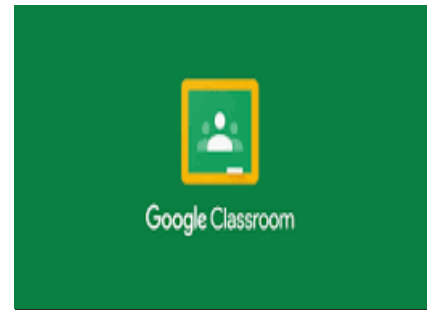
DREAM/RÊVEZ, BELIEVE/CROYEZ, ACHIEVE/ACCOMPLISSEZ

Student Services also has a Google classroom full of resources and ideas to support students and families. Information about scholarships and registration will also be posted there.

Sign up!
Classroom code crlxr7q.

You can also email the counsellors directly if you'd like to arrange time for a chat:

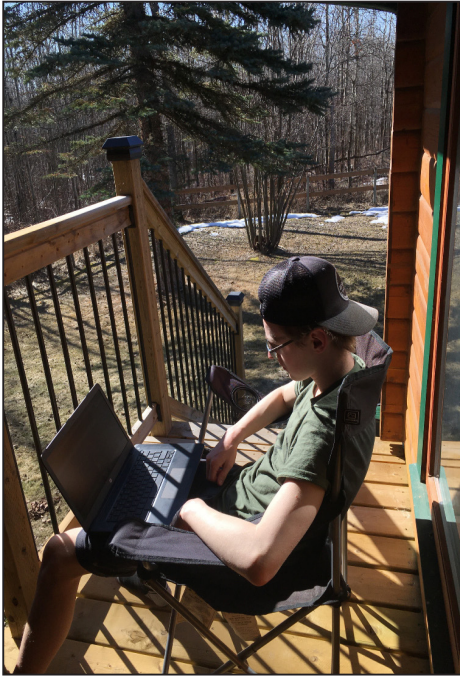
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tamia.richardson@eips.ca



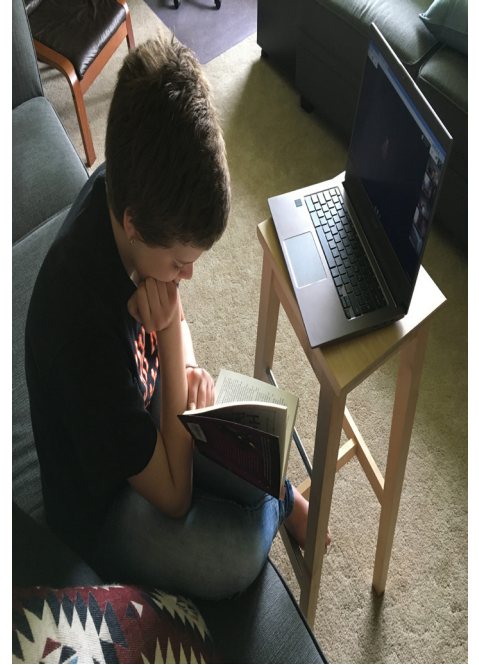


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WE WOULD LOVE
TO SEE
PICTURES OF YOU
AND YOUR ONLINE
LEARNING
EXPERIENCE!
AJS.Yearbook@eips.ca




Mrs. Gustafson would like to thank all of her work experience students for the all their hard work, she misses them greatly.



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online office hours

Mondays & Tuesdays: 12PM-3PM
Wednesdays & Thursdays: 3PM-6PM

Available on Zoom for anyone looking for support and resources. We offer a non-judgmental online space that provides peer support for any 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and families.

Email sophie@altview.ca for inquiries or to book an appointment!

THE ALTVIEW FOUNDATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FROM FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES PRESENTS



Online Community Youth GSA!

A fun and non-judgmental online space to be yourself, connect with others, and ask questions!
Open to all 2SLGBTQ+ youth and allies.

EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING!
6:30PM-8PM
HOSTED ON ZOOM

Please email sophie@altview.ca to get the Zoom link to join!



Altview Foundation for Mental Health Support is a not-for-profit organization. It is funded by Alberta Health Services, funded by Strathcona County, Family and Community Services.



WHAT ALTVIEW SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE DURING COVID-19?

1 ONLINE OFFICE HOURS

Need peer support and resources? Email sophie@altview.ca to book an appointment on zoom. Available for 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, families, and allies.
Available Monday & Tuesday 12PM-3PM and Wednesday & Thursday 3PM-6PM.

2 ONLINE COMMUNITY GSA

2SLGBTQ+ youth. Come chat up online on Zoom for a fun hangout every Wednesday evening from 6:30PM-8PM. Begins April 22, 2020 and is a weekly group. Email sophie@altview.ca to get the Zoom link to join!

3 ONLINE WORKSHOPS

We have moved our presentations online via Zoom. We offer educational workshops about 2SLGBTQ+ topics including terminology, disclosure, and mental health. We take each person's needs for your specific needs. Email info@altview.ca to book.

4 STRATHCONA PRIDE

The Strathcona Pride Committee is currently planning events for pride - just online!
Stay tuned about Facebook [2SLGBTQFestival](https://www.facebook.com/2SLGBTQFestival).

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, WE'RE HERE FOR YOU! PLEASE REACH OUT.