



SCHOOL DISTRICT No.69 (QUALICUM)

November 18, 2020

Re. Home Support and Distributed Learning options for secondary students

Dear Parents and Guardians of students in Grades 8-12

Quarter One has just ended at our secondary schools, and as our COVID-19 numbers continue to rise on Vancouver Island, we understand that you may have questions about learning options for secondary students for this year. Our first concern continues to be the safety of our students and families, and our school staffs continue to remain vigilant about cleaning, physical distancing, and following our provincial guidelines for in-person classes. We understand that some of you may wish to pursue an alternative option for learning at this time for family health and well-being reasons, and I would like to clarify what those home learning options are:

Students in Grades 8 and 9:

For students in Grades 8 and 9, the *Home Support* option provides students with temporary access to learning at home for family health and well-being reasons during the COVID-19 pandemic. This option focusses on learning in the Core Academic areas (English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics) and does not include course offerings that require hands-on participation, such as elective choices. As learning at home cannot replicate classroom learning, limited and/or adapted learning activities and assignments will be provided. Although the classroom and home support teachers will collaborate to provide learning opportunities that align with essential curriculum expectations and answer questions, the parent/guardian is the primary learning support in this option.

Students in Grades 10-12 (Graduation Program):

For students in Grades 10-12, cross-enrollment in academic course offerings that are required for graduation are available through *Distributed Learning (DL)*. This option enables students to stay connected to their neighbourhood school while pursuing a fulsome learning program provided by a classroom teacher with expertise in the selected *DL* course through our Collaborative Learning Alternative Program (CEAP). It is important to note that this option requires more independence and self-direction on the part of learners, and may require parental monitoring of the student's time-management and follow-through for learning expectations.

We hope that this information helps to clarify home learning choices for your family during this challenging time. For more information about these options and how it relates to your child's secondary learning program, please contact your school counsellor.

Thank you

Vivian Collyer
Director of Instruction