

Ursula Franklin Academy Apr 3 NewsFlash

Good Evening Students, Parents, Guardians and Staff:

Welcome back. Our hope is everyone is doing well and keeping safe. This is a major NewsFlash with a lot of important information that is designed to help everyone get back to school.

Included in the NewsFlash is a:

1. A General Welcome Back Message from the school.
2. A copy of a Letter from our Director Dr. Malloy - To the TDSB Community along with Questions and Answers. This was sent out to this evening to Parents and Students centrally, it is included here to ensure no one was left out.
3. A message from our Guidance Staff summer e-Learning opportunities in the TDSB.
4. A brief memo about our Wednesday Program and how we intend to implement it going forward.

Welcome Back Message:

All of the staff at Ursula Franklin are eager to provide the best learning environment possible for our students during the current "Health Crisis" that has necessitated the closing of all schools. This support will involve an active and committed staff creating an environment that will engage our students and prepare them for their next step – graduation, or moving on to the next grade. I hear from staff that have reached out to students – that they want to re-engage both for the opportunity to continue learning as well as to continue engaging with both their teachers and fellow students. Many are obviously worried and supporting them is a key priority of both our staff and our Board. Our teachers have always worked to ensure our students are prepared to move forward (whether it be from Grade 9 to Grade 10 or from Grade 12 to whatever post-secondary pathway they have chosen) and they are actively working to meet the needs of the students as they develop strategies to leverage various distance learning (e-learning) strategies. There isn't a one-size fits all solution and they are investigating the best way to deliver the course content in a format that will meet the needs of all of our students. Barbara and I are equally concerned and are working with staff towards ensuring that the structure put in place - under direction from the Ministry, the Board and the advice of Curriculum leaders is viable.

We know that the Ministry is suggesting that students at the secondary level be engaged in approximately 1.5 hours of work per subject per week in a non-semestered school. Our teachers will be exercising their professional judgement, in conjunction with their department curriculum leaders, about what material is most important to be covered during this difficult time. They will both keep setting students up for future success while recognizing the difficulty of the current situation. Each teacher will use technology that is most appropriate for their subject area and that they are most comfortable with, therefore learning will look different depending on the course subject matter and technology available to

both the student and teacher. We also know that the students have essentially been out of school for 3 weeks and that like coming back from an extended holiday or summer break – it would probably be most beneficial that some time is taken to review past concepts to prepare for future skill/knowledge acquisition. Teachers will also look at the curriculum and adjust it to the shorter time frame so that essential knowledge/skills are highlighted.

Learning will look different in each subject area. Students – we ask that you work with your teachers and if you have issues - please don't hesitate to speak with your teacher(s), guidance or Barbara and David. If we continue to work together as a community – we will be in the best position possible to ensure the future success of our students.

The Director's letter - included in the NewsFlash, indicates the direction and expectations of the Board with respect to Assessment and Evaluation as we move forward. Please read the section carefully. A close look at our school Calendar will reveal that the following 3 months are full of extra-curricular activities that are important to our students and their families. We will endeavour to provide timely updates on what will and will not run and what may be need to be rescheduled - I am specifically referencing Graduation related events. As we know - we will send out NewsFlashes with the updated info.

Guidance Message:

1. We just found out that summer eLearning is a go, and that registration begins on April 8th. We have not been given any specifics on when and how students will access the e-Learning Site for registration or what courses will be offered. We did feel it was important that you were made aware of the opportunity and as more information is forthcoming - we will send out another NewsFlash next week specific to summer e-Learning opportunities.

Wednesday Program:

On this coming Wednesday (April 8th), staff and possibly students, will be running a few *Wednesday Style* offerings for students to join. On Monday students will get a Google Form sent from Greg containing the options they can sign up for. When they respond, their email addresses will be recorded and then sent to those teachers leading the session. At some point before the session begins, students will be emailed a link by those teachers for how to 'join' their virtual session. Time to get creative UFA!

Attached is an overview of the Wednesday Sessions being offered.

[eWednesday Offerings.docx](#)

Message From Dr.Malloy:

This message attached was sent out centrally to all TDSB families this evening. It is also included as part of our NewsFlash.

A final reminder - we hope that you will not hesitate to connect with Guidance (Ali and Heather), Special Ed (Hillel), your teachers and the Admin, both Barbara and myself if you have any questions or concerns as we go forward. You can email me (david.freedman@tdsb.on.ca) if you have any questions - or call the school and access my voicemail (416-393-0430 ext 20010). Although I am not in the building - my voicemail is instantly transferred to my email - so calls and emails will be answered.

I hope everyone has a restful weekend. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing or hearing you all virtually on Monday.

David