

# Northern School Council Meeting

## Principal's Report

### January 26, 2021, 6:30 - 7:45 pm (Via Zoom)

#### Principal's Report - Adam

- We are looking at ways to safely have students drop off course materials at the end of Quad 2, more info will be coming as we close out the Quad.
- Quad 2 ends Feb 2, with Credit Rescue days being held Feb 3 and 4. There is a PD day on Feb 5 where we will be focusing on staff wellness, sharing best practices and how to manage the Quad turnaround.
- Guidance Dept has just wrapped up a busy month prepping for Quad 3 and assisting with Grade 8 info nights etc. Also, with no itinerant guidance counselors for Grade 8 students this year, elementary school admins have been stepping up to guide students and caregivers with decisions, and our guidance counselors have been assisting those admins. With that work now complete, our counselors are now available for virtual meetings with NSS students regarding next year's courses etc.
- OSSLT: EQAO will be conducting an online field test of the OSSLT between March 23 and May 21. The online test will be available to students in grades 10-12 attending in-person classes at that time (assuming in-person instruction has resumed). Please note:
  - **The test has been waived for students graduating this year**
  - Students can still opt to take the test; if they pass they can use it on their transcript, but if they fail, it will not count against them
  - New resources will be posted to help students with the new online format
  - NSS will choose a window of time for our students who are interested to go online and complete the test (depending on the Public Health situation at the time)
  - While students taking the test do receive a mark, the test is Pass/Fail for graduation requirements.
- While nothing has been officially announced, it is unlikely there will be exams for Quads 3 and 4, and scheduled exam days will be used for credit rescue instead.
- Report Cards will be delivered electronically (as they were for Quad 1) beginning the week of February 15th. Half-courses such as Civics and Careers that would have issued a report card at the end of their first course will include it on the Quad 2 report card.

- There will be a yearbook this year, with pictures of students and photos from around the school. You can order one via School Cash Online. More information will be included in the weekly bulletin, but we are looking at ways for the kids to submit a selfie to be included in the yearbook.
- Quad 3 timetables are almost complete and will be distributed electronically beginning February 2nd. They will also be on the TDSB Connects app.

From questions submitted by parents/guardians:

*Should students be making course selections based on the assumption it will be back to normal next year? When can we see what the Summer School Options will be?*

- Course selection is opening up next week and closes Feb 18. At this point, we are planning to operate as a full year school under normal parameters. Any changes due to COVID (semester/quadmeester, hybrid, etc.) will be made closer to the start of the new school year in conjunction with Public Health. This may or may not affect your student's course selection. Future course changes will still be limited in September (as in a normal year) to schedule conflicts only.
- Info on summer school usually gets released later in the spring. If your student is planning on taking a course during the summer, you can leave a comment on My Blueprint at the end, right before you hit submit. This helps the guidance department know your plans. Again, there are no guarantees at this point about what can/will be offered either next fall or in the summer.

*Any thoughts for those struggling right now?*

- It feels like we are collectively at a low point... not hysterical panic, more of a quiet suffering, a feeling like nothing can be done. I see it in our students but also in our teachers. Online school plus no socializing is really tough on everyone.
- Bell Let's Talk Day is this week so it's a good chance to open up some discussions and talk about our mental health. See the [Northern WellNess Let's Talk video](#).
- Teachers are the front line with high school students, so we need to be aware of how to spot a student who may be feeling especially low right now.
- Having cameras on during class helps create better communication for both teachers and students and gives teachers the ability to assess students' wellness, but we can't mandate the camera being on for either teachers or students (privacy issues on both sides).