

# Waterloo Independent Secondary School

March 24, 2020

## COMMUNICATION

The *Bulletin* is the source of information that is communicated to parents and students. Making this the main communication vehicle for the school will help ensure that all of us give consistent messages to students and to parents. In an effort to ensure accurate and up to date information with regard to the COVID 19 situation in education, we will publish the Bulletin with updates as they become available. If students ask about the situation, please limit comments to those noted in the Bulletin.

### MINISTRY OF EDUCATION: News for Graduating Students

Minister of Education on March 24

***"No graduating student will have their ability to graduate impacted by the two-week closure and the COVID-19 developments." For example, I have cancelled EQAO assessments for this school year. I have also approved a change in graduation requirements so the completion of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is not a barrier for students on track to graduate. We are also working with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development to ensure students can apply to post-secondary education (including Apprenticeship, College and University), regardless of the situation this semester."***

## GOVERNMENT NEWS UPDATE

1. Premier Ford announced that students will not be returning to school on April 6 as had been scheduled. No firm date has been established for schools to reopen.
2. For those with children and for those who wish to reach out to friends with children, note the Minister of Education's words today: *"During this time, I encourage you to continue to have open conversations with your children about COVID-19 and acknowledge that their reactions to this period — however emotional — are understandable and normal. There are many resources available to you and your children, notably Kids Help Phone, which is Canada's only 24/7 national support service. They offer professional counselling, information and referrals and volunteer-led, text-based support to young people in both English and French. Please visit their website: [www.kidshelpphone.ca](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca), call: 1-800-668-6868, or text CONNECT to 686868."*

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## FROM A LETTER SENT TO SCHOOL BOARDS BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

The government has launched an online portal

*“This online portal, which is available at [Ontario.ca/learnathome](https://ontario.ca/learnathome), enables students at every grade level to continue learning while away from school. These resources are developed by Ontario educators, and resources for all grades are informed by leading instructional guidance. For those students who are in secondary school, we are providing access to online courses directly based on Ontario curricula.”*

Take a look at the [excellent resources at Course Previewer Widget](#).

### REMINDERS

- Teachers and students should come to class dressed as they would on Friday's.
- Teachers and students are to be on camera, showing their full face with the mic always on. Students who do not comply or do not respond when asked to put the camera and mic on will be marked absent and parents will be contacted.
- Place yourself against a neutral background to reduce distraction for students.
- Students are to sit up straight at a table during the lesson.
- Do not use a password to require access to the Zoom classroom because it makes visiting the class impossible for Directors.
- Review the *Guidelines for Online Learning* sent to you earlier.

### MID-TERM REPORTING

This week is the time to gather all the data or evidence that will be used to determine the mid term grade: products, observations, and conversations. As you know, there is no mid-term test. The teacher's task is to report accurately progress to date. The governing principle at this time of year is to report the student's most consistent achievement.

**OPTIMISM IS HARD TO COME BY THESE DAYS BUT TRY TO KEEP IN MIND WINSTON CHURCHILL'S WORDS ....**

**I am an optimist. It does not seem too much use being anythings else.**