

# Waterloo Independent Secondary School

March 29, 2020

## **Communication: Comment**

Relying on virtual communication hinders good communication. When we don't see each other except on a screen, we loosen the bonds that tie us: students with teachers, staff with administration, teachers with school. It's a natural outcome of the 'virtualness' of the online world. We know and feel that many of our social media friends are really only 'frenz'. Calling them friends diminishes the meaning. It's counterfeit. You can pass it off as the real thing but eventually someone catches on. So, what to do? Not with a little irony I say, communicate more. It's why I asked Courtney to do brief check-ins with teachers regularly. It's why we encourage you not to hesitate to jot a quick message about students - good stuff you see - or, not so good - a good strategy, a good resource, a good ...

'Talk' to us individually or as a group; you have frenz in us!

## **UPDATES**

1. As noted in the previous *Bulletin*, the Minister of Education announced cancelation of the OSSLT. Following the announcement, the local school board announced cancelation of the Literacy Course. WISS will follow suit. We will not offer the OLC.
2. At this point, WISS is planning to finish out the school year through online learning.
3. The current model of live online classrooms will remain in place until the school makes a change. Parents understand that students are receiving daily instruction with a teacher in charge of the classroom in the same way as in a physical facility. Any change to the model will be done in consultation with staff.
4. Some parents have grave enough concerns that they have decided to withdraw their children before end of school year. This is a parental right. Students are expected to continue with their studies, complete course work and participate in the final evaluation.

## **SURVEY RESULTS**

Highlights:

- Teachers are generally **very satisfied** with the WISS online model: resources, timely homework completion and assignment submission, live contact with students.

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- Teachers are **somewhat less satisfied** with student engagement: student understanding of homework/assignment tasks, ability to work independently, distractions.
  - Teachers are **unsatisfied** with the level and nature of interaction with students.
  - Teachers have **mixed reactions** about the technology and finding a better way to offer online learning.

**What are the implications** going forward? The low level of satisfaction with teacher-student interaction means that gathering data in this way is a challenge. With inadequate data, we may find that triangulation in the determination of final grades an impossible or, at the very least, a challenging task

## **LEARNING ONLINE: Feedback**

Courtney compiled valuable information from week 1 based on your feedback. It's a living document that you should add to as something comes up. She will continue checking in briefly with you from time to time to help identify issues and concerns. This helps all of us offer solutions to problems and to support each other.

## **MID-TERM REPORT - TALKING POINTS with STUDENTS**

- Your mark reflects your progress to date.
- Your mark shows your most consistent work since the beginning of the semester.
- Your mark is based on different kinds of evidence or data that you provide.
- You give evidence to the teacher in different ways: by writing an evaluation or an assignment, by answering questions/engaging in discussions in class, and by interacting with the teacher.
- Your learning skills and work habits - or behaviours - affect your mark.
- Your marks usually improve over time as you get more familiar with the content.
- To improve, read and understand comments your teacher made.
- Discuss the report card with Mr. Wu (Owen) who can help you understand what you should do to improve.
- For questions about marks, talk first with your teacher.
- If you want to appeal your mark to the principal, talk with Mr. Wu.

These anonymous words caught my eye. We're all spending so much more time online these days and we can lose perspective on the really important stuff!

***Last night, the internet stopped working so I spent a few hours with my family.  
They seem like nice people.***