



Sunday, May 10, 2020

A Message from Mr. Halfyard to Parents and Students Regarding the Continuation of Learning

Dear OGCIS Parents and Students,

As you know, the school year has started in an unusual and challenging way. Due to the ongoing safety concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person teaching and learning has been suspended until May 31st as determined by the school administration and government. As a result of the state of emergency students are continuing to receive their education online through videoconferencing applications such as Microsoft Teams.

It is important for parents to know that the teachers at OGCIS are delivering the full BC curriculum to grade 10 and 11 students as scheduled. Although adjustments have been made to allow for limitations of remote learning using technology and digital devices, students are receiving a high-quality educational program from BC trained and qualified teachers. Teachers are assessing and evaluating students' progress in each subject, and students will receive full credits for completed assignments and tests in each course.

Students continue to collaborate, think critically and creatively, and to communicate online with their teachers and classmates while we navigate the current reality of not being physically together in classrooms and a school building learning environment. This is a different and new way of instructing for teachers and learning for students. Students are engaged in personalized learning of the BC curriculum, focusing on the core competencies of "knowing-doing-understanding" learning standards.

As educators, we are pleased with the way that our students have successfully adapted to this changed learning environment. Students are asking good questions, sharing their thinking, completing daily assignments and meeting teachers' expectations. As principal, I am impressed with the hard work, adjustments, and level of professionalism that OGCIS teachers have demonstrated in delivering the BC curriculum content to your children.

We also know that success in school is more than academic success. Our students also need support with their social and emotional development in addition to their academic growth. This means that teachers and parents must ensure we help our students by understanding how challenging this new way of living and learning affects them. Here are some recommendations that OGCIS staff are using and offer to parents to reinforce in supporting every student during online learning.

Students should:

- Work in an **open** place at home where practical (not *only* in your room)
- Take **regular breaks** to eat with family members (eat lunch and meals with your family to stay *connected*)
- Take frequent **movement/brain breaks** during the day (get up and *stretch* and move for 5 minutes several times during the day)

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Our mission is to empower
future mindful leaders
who flourish in and enrich
a global society.



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- Participate **actively** during classes by speaking out and asking questions to help understand instructions or vocabulary (being online *does not* mean passive learning)
- **Self-advocate** with teachers by informing them if you need additional time for assignments due to illness or workload (Students are *accountable* for their own learning by communicating with their teachers)

We are hopeful that schools will reopen to in-person classes by early June. Until then, the high-quality educational program for grade 10 and 11 students at OGCIS will continue. Our teachers continue to plan, prepare and deliver effective lessons and evaluate student progress for each subject. I ask that you trust in our efforts and that you have confidence in staff in providing the continuity of instruction, and students' learning during the suspension of in-person classes at OGCIS.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher or me directly if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Gregg Halfyard
Principal
Osaka Gakugei Canadian International School

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