

October 14, 2020

Dear Rideau DHS Parents/Guardians and Students,

It is our pleasure to welcome you back from the Thanksgiving long weekend. We hope it was a restful and joyful time for you and your family.

As we have now settled into daily learning routines, we want to provide you with updated information about adjustments to the secondary school diploma program and graduation requirements that will support our students during the 2020-2021 school year.

Evaluation of Student Learning and Final Examinations

The Ministry of Education has recently given school districts the ability to adjust secondary evaluation processes to reflect the realities that come with learning and attending school during the uncertainties of a pandemic. So, **for the 2020-2021 school year, there will be no final exams for secondary students (Grades 9-12) at the end of any quadmester.** Instead, student grades will be solely based on the specific learning activities and assignments completed by students that serves as term work for each course.

Grades 9-12 students will be provided with a mark-to-date at the midpoint of each course rather than the typical mid-term report. Marks-to-date will be shared with students in writing on or before October 20th, 2020 by email to the student's UCDSB email account.

Parents/guardians and students should have ongoing discussions about progress with their teachers throughout the school year. If you have progress concerns, please connect directly with your child's teachers.

Adjustments to Graduation Requirements:

Community Involvement Hours

For the 2020-2021 school year, the 40-hour community involvement graduation requirement has been reduced to 20 hours. This change reflects that graduating students may have met barriers in earning the 40-hour requirement for community involvement hours during the last school year, and there may continue to be such barriers this school year. Any student having difficulty earning the 20-hour requirement should contact myself, Brent Brown, or our guidance office at wendy.mccourt@ucdsb.on.ca, to explore the range of flexible considerations that can be made available.

Ontario Secondary School Grade 10 Literacy Test (OSSLT)

Students expecting to graduate in the 2020-2021 school year will need to complete the Grade 10 Literacy Test. This test will be administered in the Spring of 2021. If students are eligible to graduate prior to the end of the school year and would like to complete their diploma requirements before the OSSLT is administered, they should contact our guidance office.

John McAllister
Chair

Stephen Sliwa
Director



We want to thank our students and parents/guardians for their outstanding efforts to adapt to the new routines of enhanced hygiene practices at our schools, [participating in daily health screening](#), and your overall support as we continue to navigate what it means to operate schools during a global pandemic.

Thank you,

Brent Brown
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John McAllister
Chair



Stephen Sliwa
Director