



# BRITANNIA NEWS UPDATES FOR FAMILIES

THURSDAY, APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

---

## Hello Britannia Families,

As the second week of cancelled classes comes to a close, we wanted to share some information about what has been happening at Britannia and what the plans are for next week.

Our work is focused around the VSB's guiding principles during the pandemic which are to:

- Ensure the health and safety of students, staff and communities
- Communicate thoughtfully, transparently and in a timely manner
- Provide connections to ensure students feel valued and have a sense of belonging and community
- Provide continued learning opportunities so that all students can successfully transition to their next phase of learning

The goal for the first week was to make connections with our students and families. This remains ongoing as staff have continued to make an initial contact with all their students and focused on connecting with those not reached last week.

We have also been working to connect with and support our vulnerable students with food and other necessities. Lunches, groceries and grocery store gift cards have been distributed from the outside of the cafeteria daily from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Ensuring health and safety is our top priority as we all work to support our students. Should you have any pressing concerns or needs including food and groceries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's grade counsellor or program teacher.

One of the goals for this week has been to assess the readiness of our students to learn remotely. This has involved determining which students have no or limited access to technology and wireless networks. A plan to increase access to technology is in the works and will include distributing technology from the district to students in need so they can continue their learning at home. Our hope is to begin to distribute technology in the middle of next week.

The other goal for this week was to develop a plan for the continuity of learning at Brit. Our plan is taking shape and we would like to share the following on the continuity of learning (COL) at Brit:

Goals:

- Connections and Support – maintaining relationships, sense of belonging and community
- Continue to have positive influence on students' lives
- Provide structure and routine
- Provide opportunities for learning and feedback
- Address challenges of equity and access

What will it look like?

- This is not online learning. It is remote learning during a global pandemic.
- Variety of forms – every classroom reflects COL in a different way
  - Assignments, tasks, projects, discussions on teams
  - Online through teams and offline

Schedule

- Organized to create maximum flexibility taking into consideration

- access to technology and resources
- shared devices/resources at home
- Will not follow the day 1/ day 2 schedules but some class discussion may take place on a particular day.

#### Start Date

- Teachers are currently contacting students, and many have started to engage students in tasks and assignments. We have been taking time to connect with students and determine their readiness to engage in remote learning. Most teachers will have learning opportunities ready for the week of April 14.

#### Communication with students

- Through the office 365 teams platform primarily but also by email, phone calls and the distribution of paper packages from the school.
- Teachers will be accessible through email and teams.

#### Assessment and Reporting

- The district is working on guiding principles for the reporting and assessment of this remote learning. We anticipate we will receive this information early next week.
- The ministry of education has indicated that 'every student will receive a final mark and all students on track to move to the next grade will do so in the fall'. In June, teachers will communicate with students and families a final assessment/grade based on the work completed to the end of term two and evidence gathered while students are remote learning.
- Students who were not passing courses will be given an opportunity to demonstrate learning in order to earn credit for the course.
- All assessments will take into consideration the issues of equity and accessibility during the pandemic.

#### Code of Conduct

- VSB Acceptable Use of Technology Policy <https://aup.vsb.bc.ca/SitePages/grade4-12studentpolicy.aspx>
- Britannia Secondary Code of Conduct <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/britannia-secondary/Guidance-and-Support/Code-of-Conduct/Documents/sbfile/200204/Britannia%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20and%20Ministry%20Requirements%20AMENDED%20OCT%202016.pdf>

#### Role of Parents

- To help encourage students
- To help set schedules at home
- To provide feedback to teachers

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work through this situation that is different than anything we have every encountered. We welcome your feedback and questions and please do not hesitate to contact us by email or by phone. Our school phone will be answered between 9:00 am and 2:30 pm.

Finally, we would like to pass on a link to an online resource, created by one of our teachers, that gathers info about supports for our students and their families <https://careerlifeiclass.com/pandemic-support>

Take care,

**The Brit Admin**

Britannia Website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/britannia-secondary/Pages/default.aspx>