



MAGEE SECONDARY SCHOOL

6360 Maple Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4M2
Telephone: 604-713-8200 Fax: 604-713-8209

Follow us on Twitter: @MageeLion
And on Instagram

Magee News
17 April, 2020

1. School Updates

Thank-you for your understanding that weekly Magee News editions are not always possible, and that our first task as Magee teachers is to educate, mentor, and connect with your kids. In particular, since the start of Spring Break, our learning curve has been exponential as we have had to orient learning away from the face to face contact model to find ways to support learning during the Covid State of Emergency. Your support and understanding is appreciated, and is not taken for granted.

This Magee News will draw on the questions submitted and asked at our recent PAC Zoom General meeting held on Tuesday 14 April, arranged and facilitated by your PAC Executive- Cochairs Dr. Maria Hubinette and Skye Richards, Secretary Mira Laza, Treasurer Nellie Wong, and members without portfolio: Victoria Xiao, Lyndsey Grauer, Sharlene Niu, and Sandra McPeake.

This was a unique PAC meeting for many reasons- 67 parents signed up for the meeting and participated, as best as able, while I answered pre-submitted and generated questions. The questions all came from a deep concern for all our children's education: not one question referred to "my child" but were consistently seeking clarity with the intention of improving our public education system in this unique period of history. Thank you PAC and our parent community for your support and engagement!

If there is a central message from my answers to parent questions it is this: Parents have many worries at this time. **One thing that you do not need to worry about is your child's public education.** At Magee, just like any other elementary or secondary school in Vancouver or the province, we teachers and administrators intend to take the worry of public education from the parents' shoulders; just like our colleagues in public health have risen to the challenge, our teachers are rising to the opportunity of Continuation of Learning during the State of Emergency.

So far, the implementation of the new Teams environment has been a steep learning curve: for a task that would usually take approximately 6 to 12 months to master along with contact support and Professional Days, in this situation teachers have had to get familiar with Teams during spring break and in the first week back. Subsequently, over the past two weeks we have focused on the details of the new teaching situation and what it means for classes. More on this in the answers to your specific questions...

Excellence: Our tradition

This email was sent by Andrew Schofield, aschofield@vsb.bc.ca to you because you are subscribed to receive information regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary. If you no longer wish to receive emails regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary please email unsubscribe@vsb.bc.ca, and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject field. If you have any questions please visit <http://govsb.ca/CASL>. Vancouver School Board. 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8 TEL: 604.713.5000

An interesting question that did come up referred to preparing for emergencies. It is important to reassure you again here in these introductory comments: Covid would have been hard to predict and prepare for beforehand, however, we *have* had extensive training regarding emergency preparedness and threat assessments. Every school district has a District Critical Incidence Team and each school has its own trained Critical Incidence team ready for emergencies. All my training in the past had been done around earthquakes etc, where supports and supplies could come in from non-affected areas, or from emergency supply bins and depots... no training has predicted a global health crisis! This has added to our extremely steep learning curve and again underscores our gratitude to parents for your patience.

Lastly, as good as every other school in the VSB is, I do feel that we have an exceptional staff and we are uniquely situated to support your kids. Here's why: No other school has two **Vice Principals** who (in addition to their specific and unique skillsets) have both taken on contact teaching blocks (Miss Wood in senior Biology, Mr. Egilsson in junior PE) therefore they have experienced first-hand the challenges of implementing Teams. This experience has helped them understand the teacher's needs better, and their response as administrators has been exceptional- I feel that teachers are supported from a position of trust, allowing teachers to support your children to a greater degree. Our thoughtful and professional relationship with the teacher's association representatives (the **Vancouver Secondary Teachers Association- VSTA**)- Mrs. Quan, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. James, and Mr. Kanavos- means that any teacher concerns are quickly brought to our attention and addressed, again allowing teachers to focus on teaching and learning, and supporting the Continuation of Learning. Lastly, our remarkable **Counsellors** (Mrs. Lercher, Mrs. Miladinovic, Mrs. Liu, and Mr. Kanavos) continue to reach out to students and families and find avenues of support wherever possible.

With these general comments in mind lets turn to your questions, in orange, and my responses in italics...

What format will online learning take?

All schools in the VSB are using Microsoft teams as our online learning format. We encourage families to stay with Teams (this is also the platform for our Vancouver Learning Network) and the continued learning suggested by individual teachers, rather than switching to the online VLN (Vancouver Learning Network), which can also be used. Our teachers will get to contact learning as soon as possible using the Teams platform, the students will be able to work on assignments, contact teachers and each other, submit work etc... Some feedback will be cursory, other more detailed depending on situation.

Can students use VLN? Why are students are not allowed to use VLN to pass online courses?

Students can register for VLN courses if they want. However, Continuation of Learning (COL) during the Covid State of Emergency is not online learning or distance learning. It is a unique attempt by our teachers to continue learning in the present situation. All of our disaster preparation activities have focused on earthquakes, fires, school lockdowns, gas leaks, etc.... so we were really unprepared for this. If a student now wants to drop, say Science 10 and start Science 10 through an online platform like Vancouver Learning Network, that is their choice, but I wouldn't recommend it. Our teachers have established solid relationships with students; now is not a time to try to establish relationships with an online teacher at an online academy or program!

Excellence: Our tradition

This email was sent by Andrew Schofield, aschofield@vsb.bc.ca to you because you are subscribed to receive information regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary. If you no longer wish to receive emails regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary please email unsubscribe@vsb.bc.ca, and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject field. If you have any questions please visit <http://govsb.ca/CASL>. Vancouver School Board. 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8 TEL: 604.713.5000

What are the expectations on my child regarding time spent, workload, homework, attendance, etc?
What should parents expect? How many hours of homework are students expected to complete on a given day and week? What does the scheduling framework look like for teachers and students. For example, are assignments distributed online on Mondays and collected on Friday?

Some teachers send work on Monday and ask to have it done by Friday but we are trying balance this so kids and families are not suddenly overwhelmed with work. Teachers are usually available from 9:00 am to 3:00pm- nothing has changed there! As we become more proficient with Teams some lessons and tutorials will be recorded- some teachers are already doing this- and students can go to the classroom site and review when convenient. However, no organized schedule is expected during the day because some kids work on the same computer at home, or parents who are working from home might need the computer, and there might be bandwidth accessibility and overloading in home environments: your teachers are aware of these inconsistencies and are planning with these in mind.

According to my kid, teachers are telling them that online lessons and homework completion is optional, you can participate to increase your grade for the third term , or not participate and you will get your current standing as your final grade. This is contrary to what's indicated on the ministry website. Please clarify what are the expectations on participation on classes and homework, and if the above students interpretation is incorrect, can this be clarified to all students and parents

*Some teachers are setting **optional work**. Please encourage your kids to do this work if at all possible! Regarding optional work, it really is up to the student and your unique family environment that will shape what is possible and what is not possible to complete. A parent-child conversation around expectations and bearing in mind the situation at home would help guide the amount of optional work that is attempted. However, **mandatory work** needs to be done and will be marked. Some teachers might not differentiate optional and mandatory- in that case please assume all work is mandatory! Naturally, if your child is struggling with getting work in please contact the teacher or counsellor!!*

*The Ministry of Education and the VSB have advised teachers to provide **for Grade 8/9 students 30 minutes per day per course; a maximum of 4 opportunities for learning per day following the schedule of the day (day1/day2)**, to an anticipated minimum of 30 min/day/course = 2hours/day. However, this will be different for students who take choir, drama, music and shop classes. For **senior students** and elective courses more than 30min/course/day is expected. Students should be receiving material in PDF format since this has low bandwidth capacity, or online forms; some of this might be fillable. Students should read through material and submit as per teachers' directions. I have seen students arranging their own study groups outside of their teams environments; some kids are taking photos of their work and submitting those ...*

Each teacher assigns workload for students, how do we know my child is not overloaded with work from 8 subject teachers.

Exactly the concern of us teachers! We are being very careful to identify the core learning outcomes needed, If your child is being overloaded please contact us at school- this may be symptomatic of broader concerns and issues that need addressing through counsellor or other support!

What should parents expect from online teaching - learning outcomes or learning opportunities?

Excellence: Our tradition

This email was sent by Andrew Schofield, aschofield@vsb.bc.ca to you because you are subscribed to receive information regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary. If you no longer wish to receive emails regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary please email unsubscribe@vsb.bc.ca , and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject field. If you have any questions please visit <http://govsb.ca/CASL>. Vancouver School Board. 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8 TEL: 604.713.5000

Both! Learning opportunities aligned with learning outcomes that have been adjusted to take cognisance of the current learning environment (which is clearly unique!!).

Can I expect the teacher of every single academic course will be giving online lessons and homework?

Yes!

Will there be an organized daily schedule for different classes?

No. This might work for single child families, or where each child has access to their own laptop, and the home has sufficient bandwidth. Not all families are in this situation, so we need to build some flexibility into the system. Some teachers are, however, organizing scheduled activities but recognizing that not everyone can participate.

Are online classes attendance and homework optional? Are these being kept track of?

Yes, we are tracking participation, and teachers are checking-in on student participation. Every Friday teachers submit non-participation reports to school administration and either admin or your child's counsellor will be following up with students who are not participating online. If there is a problem with computer access or technology, we are identifying these families and students and finding ways to get technology to them. If you are not able to participate online, please contact your school administrator or counsellor as soon as possible!!

Will there be any consistency in how each class will be delivered? Eg how many online instruction hour and assigned work for each class?

No there will be no consistency- it will vary by grade, subject, and teacher. Learning is not uniform and synchronous; it is a-synchronous, haphazard, messy, unique; we can give structure in a regular world. In this Covid world of Continuation of Learning we are identifying the key learning outcomes necessary to set up learning success at the next stage of learning (next year's grade or for grade 12's for college and university) and focussing just on those. And we are focusing on the new curriculum's Core Competencies and trying to have students demonstrate learning rather than acquire facts. We want to avoid busy work and putting more stress on vulnerable families!

Ontario mandated 1.5 to 3 hours of homework per course each week, do we have any guidelines as to how much work the students can expect?

Yes- please see above

The ministry has postpone the graduation Literacy and Numeracy 10, my question is why Magee did not provide grade 10 students an opportunity to write one of the two graduation assessments in back in January rather than waiting for April to complete both. Moving forward, would be school consider staggering the two assessments in the future?

We write in April because in a year long (rather than symmetrised) program by April grade 10's have covered more work and are better prepared for the grade 10 numeracy/literacy assessments. Unlikely- as noted, students are better prepared later in the year.

Many grade 10 students In different schools have written the graduation numeracy assessment in January while students at Magee did not get the opportunity.

Excellence: Our tradition

This email was sent by Andrew Schofield, aschofield@vsb.bc.ca to you because you are subscribed to receive information regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary. If you no longer wish to receive emails regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary please email unsubscribe@vsb.bc.ca , and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject field. If you have any questions please visit <http://govsb.ca/CASL>. Vancouver School Board. 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8 TEL: 604.713.5000

These were probably in semesterized school districts, and only those that had completed English 10 and/or Math 10

What will assessment and evaluation look like for Term 3 at Magee? Will Term 3 count towards the final mark?

Yes, term 3 marks will count! Please see below for additional thoughts on assessment ...

How is the final grade determined?

Generally, cumulative weighting of terms 1, 2, and 3 determine a student's final grade. However, each term's grade do not necessarily have an equivalent weighting. Most teachers will be adjusting t3 weighting to reflect the COL learning environment.

Does the online learning work affect student's final grades?

What a student achieved in Term 1 or Term 2 doesn't change and students still need to do their best work for term 3. If students do not submit any online work before T3 reporting period deadlines teachers will be contacting parents and looking for ways to support the student's learning!

Will there be any final exam or test for the third term?

This is unlikely- there is a greater shift to project-based learning and showing understanding in this Continuation of Learning environment.

If so, how will they be delivered? What kind of assessment will be used for the rest of the school year?

*Assessment will more than likely be done through **formative** rather than **summative** assessment- already, with BC's new curriculum there is a shift away from tests and reciting facts (summative assessment) to demonstrating understanding and growth in learning and understanding. Furthermore, this is a very unique Term 3 so optional work may not count for the final mark and teachers will have to be very careful in identifying the key items that are needed for learning and growth. The VSB as a district is also currently looking at this in more detail, and our Superintendent this week released an excellent manifesto for teachers regarding assessment emphasizing our mandate as professional educators. Some teachers might change the weight of assessments and reassess the weight of Term 3 within the final mark determinations; in some cases, kids might have the opportunity to improve their Term 2 marks, if they wish, but the mark will not go down due to the challenges encountered during Term 3.*

How will we make sure students are learning what they are supposed to?

At the best of times it is difficult, sometimes, to ensure that a student's work is their own. In this environment and without continuous assessment of progress that occurs every day in the classroom it will be harder to assess how authentic student learning and growth is. Teachers are aware that some students can "buy" assessments; universities are also aware that students can purchase online essays so at the end of the day it depends on students: they have the responsibility to learn for themselves... it is definitely easier to assess in the classroom, but in the present circumstances we need to give the students the benefit of the doubt. If students struggle, they should ask their teacher or counsellor for support- we might be geographically distant but we are not socially distant! So, ultimately, student learning rests on the trust and the relationship between the student and the teacher!

Excellence: Our tradition

This email was sent by Andrew Schofield, aschofield@vsb.bc.ca to you because you are subscribed to receive information regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary. If you no longer wish to receive emails regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary please email unsubscribe@vsb.bc.ca, and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject field. If you have any questions please visit <http://govsb.ca/CASL>. Vancouver School Board. 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8 TEL: 604.713.5000

What's happening with AP exams.

Advanced Placement (AP) exams are following a new format that is shifting to open book testing that will be non-fact and recall bases and will rely more on student applications of content. The AP examinations authority will also be looking carefully at the degree of congruency (or alignment) between a student's class mark and their exam mark. Lastly, from my understanding, there will be greater teacher oversight and input on final grades awarded in cases of a significant discrepancy between work submitted and assessed at school and a final exam result.

How do we keep students motivated to learn? How can parents help?

Parents can help just by being there, asking questions, by being mindfully present, emailing teachers, emailing counsellors, asking for help, if needed. Parenting is hard enough and keeping your child motivated varies from child to child. All of us teachers struggle with this as well!

Can parents have the curriculum for each grade which the students submit to the parents to follow up the progress of continued learning program online?

Yes, the curriculum for each grade and subject is available publicly online through the BC Ministry of Education webpage available [here](#). Teachers plan learning from these guides however, where each teacher is 'at' will be different since each class is a unique learning environment! To follow your child's progress in this Continuation of Learning environment it would be best to check in withy our child and monitor their submission of online assignments.

Are parents able to support the continued learning program online in more interactive ways?

The degree to which parents can support your child's online learning (or Continuation of Learning during the State of Emergency) will depend on the grade level, subject and topic within each subject. Some material is available provincially and there are also many sites providing different online learning opportunities on many different subjects and in many different formats. As always- be careful of scams and fraudulent sites! My son has used the Kahn Academy online learning platform for some support and the BC Teacher's Federation (BCTF) does have a tutoring service, with some online tutoring.

Are there teaching assisting drills for parents available/necessary?

There are many sites available- most of us are probably aware of the Kahn Academy free online courses and tutorials tailored to a variety of subjects and levels.

Are there recordings from teachers available for kids?

Some teachers are developing short online lessons and tutorials, yes... teachers are experimenting and mentoring each other. Department Heads are doing some of this mentoring, but we have several incredible teachers who are also helping each other out.

How do kids maintain contact w teachers?

The "Chat" function in Teams had been disabled, but email works well... if social and emotional support is needed, please encourage your child to also reach out to their grade counsellor for help!

Excellence: Our tradition

This email was sent by Andrew Schofield, aschofield@vsb.bc.ca to you because you are subscribed to receive information regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary. If you no longer wish to receive emails regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary please email unsubscribe@vsb.bc.ca , and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject field. If you have any questions please visit <http://govsb.ca/CASL>. Vancouver School Board. 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8 TEL: 604.713.5000

My child is graduating this year. What can we expect regarding graduation, capstone, readiness for post-secondary? What's happening with the capstone project?

The capstone project is ongoing and needs to be completed. If it is not possible to complete, for example, if a student's capstone project involved running camps during Spring Break and the project cannot be completed because of social distancing regulations, your child can change her/his topic. Your child should reach out to her/his/their capstone teacher. My understanding is that our capstone teachers have already contacted your kids! Again- this is a worry that we can take off your plate!

Can the students finish and have a virtual presentation or just a written report of what they've done?

Yes, either alternative is possible!

How do you ensure that the remainder of the curriculum is being delivered especially for the graduating class to make sure that they are well prepared for their post secondary education?

We're ensuring high quality instruction by having great relationships with teachers and supporting all colleagues, and following up with teachers and students if we see problems. For example, if a parent emails concerned that they have 'got nothing from Magee'. We follow up and check passwords; check with kids; check teams extracts; check with teachers and counsellors, and we make sure that learning is ongoing. But, importantly, we rely on the professional relationships that we have on our staff to ensure that a world class education is provided.

*I have absolutely no doubt that your kids will be ready for any post-secondary education, given the work already done in community, at school, in your homes over the past 13 years of education from kindergarten, to elementary schooling, to now. I also know that resiliency was established over this time. Now, with heightened uncertainty, with our kids we must **focus on just those things that we can control**, and have absolute faith that they will be ready for their post-secondary experience: 6-9 weeks of Covid, or however long it lasts, will not challenge the foundations that you have already established for your kids!*

When will decisions be made about graduation ceremonies? How will these be made?

We will be guided by Provincial and Local Health regulations regarding social distancing and meetings. Ultimately, our timeline will be set by the progress of Covid in the community!

Is this an option that in the summer the schools are not closed to make this time up?

No, school is not expected to extend into the summer... and there will not be Summer make up classes - students are expected to be working in teams environments per 30 minutes per course per day, roughly following day1/2 schedule with teachers focussing on essential learning outcomes and core competencies to allow success in the next grade.

*Regarding **Summer school** no decisions have been made as yet by the VSB. However, personally, I don't recommend Summer School. In my opinion students need time to spend the summer relaxing or engaging in activities that they might not do during the school year- like sailing, kiteboarding, rock climbing etc, depending on what is affordable, of course.*

Can we access the school to retrieve items left in lockers?

Not yet, please. We are guided by Health Ministry regulations that emphasise physical distancing. As soon as we can we'll coordinate with families and if possible allow access on a very restricted and controlled

Excellence: Our tradition

This email was sent by Andrew Schofield, aschofield@vsb.bc.ca to you because you are subscribed to receive information regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary. If you no longer wish to receive emails regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary please email unsubscribe@vsb.bc.ca, and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject field. If you have any questions please visit <http://govsb.ca/CASL>. Vancouver School Board. 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8 TEL: 604.713.5000

basis. However, if something is urgently needed, like an EpiPen or medications please contact us at school and we can arrange school access; but if it is just for a textbook or journal, hopefully students will not need books from lockers, as teachers are posting preparation materials on Teams.

My apology for the long document! If you have further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school, your counsellors or grade administrators, or me directly through my email or cell (778 228 8783)- I'll do my best to get back to you as soon as possible! ... or even indirectly through your PAC! Also, please read on to Mr. Egilsson's note and advice regarding access and technology!

Best wishes!

2. Technical update from Magee's Vice Principal, Kelly Egilsson, overseeing Technology!

The Magee administrative team is tremendously proud of Magee families and staff for learning to utilize a new-to-us technology that supports teaching and learning. We had planned to methodically roll out Microsoft Teams for students and staff over two years, and the Magee community has taken on this monumental task under duress and while in isolation in two weeks!

From our end, it seems that most students have managed to log on to Microsoft Teams and find their virtual classrooms. Students are using Office 365 to communicate with teachers, attend virtual class meetings, watch educational videos, and complete assignments.

If students are still experiencing difficulty with the app, here are a few common problems and solutions:

- 1) **Use Google Chrome** to log in to VSB Office 365. Safari, and ironically, Microsoft's own Internet Explorer don't seem to play well with Office 365 when downloading Office 365 apps to local devices.
- 2) After downloading Teams, Word, Excel, etc., **restart the computer.**
- 3) **Office 365 (Office 365) and Teams can be used on any device** with a browser. Although not as feature-rich as the app version (available in the Google Play and Apple Stores), the browser version will get the job done.

Not sure what all this talk of Teams and Office 365 (Office 365) is all about? Here's a [short video](#) that explains the basics for students and parents.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support as we transition to teaching with new technology!

3. School Events.

APRIL EVENTS:

On hold during Covid emergency

Excellence: Our tradition

This email was sent by Andrew Schofield, aschofield@vsb.bc.ca to you because you are subscribed to receive information regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary. If you no longer wish to receive emails regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary please email unsubscribe@vsb.bc.ca, and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject field. If you have any questions please visit <http://govsb.ca/CASL>. Vancouver School Board. 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8 TEL: 604.713.5000

Upcoming School Events (*all on hold during Covid Emergency*) please also bookmark ...
<http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/magee/Pages/calendar.aspx>

Standing Links.

[Teacher emails](#) ... if you need to set up a meeting!

VSB Webpage: Please click [here](#)

Magee School Webpage: Please click [here](#)

Magee PAC: Please click [here](#)

Magee Fundraising: Please click [here](#)

Magee Music Society: Please click [here](#)

Excellence: Our tradition

This email was sent by Andrew Schofield, aschofield@vsb.bc.ca to you because you are subscribed to receive information regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary. If you no longer wish to receive emails regarding the Vancouver School Board and/or Magee Secondary please email unsubscribe@vsb.bc.ca , and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject field. If you have any questions please visit <http://govsb.ca/CASL>. Vancouver School Board. 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8 TEL: 604.713.5000