



Dear Highlanders,

With the Minister's announcement on April 2nd, we have been mobilizing as a staff this week to focus our time and energy to support students in their learning. We, educators, are working in an environment that is new to us, outside of the comfort of our classes, labs, shops and gym. In discussions during the last few weeks, we are excited and ready for this new challenge to continue to help our students learn from home. We miss our students and are disappointed that schools will remain closed for the remainder of the school year.

When Minister Cardy made the announcement on the 2nd of April, it was the first time that teachers heard this news. It's a lot to process. We may not have answers to all the questions you and our students have right now; please realize we are working through this new reality together. As a school, we have since been collaborating and planning online which is new to most of us. There will likely be bumps in the road, but we will adjust as we go and are confident that together we can make the best of the situation.

First, its important for you to know a few things so that you are not mis-informed or mislead as to what we are expecting from our students:

Mental Health- It has been the priority of our provincial government to do everything we can to alleviate the many stresses that face Canadians during this difficult time. At the forefront is our collective concern about the mental health of all Canadians. With job losses, food security issues, bills to pay, there are many stressors in our world. Hopefully these national programs and unemployment opportunities will bridge the gap for many of our Canadians and in turn help alleviate stress.

Support for BMHS students is available through our guidance counsellors, Lindsay Dominie (student last names from M-Z) Lindsay.dominie@nbed.nb.ca and Steve Harris (student last names from A-L) Stephen.harris@nbed.nb.ca.

In saying this EECD (Education and Early Childhood Development) has made it a priority that we communicate to students and families that the education component is designed to support our students learning, but at the same time not be an added stress given the variety of situations that many of our families face. Given that not all families have internet, mobile devices etc., we cannot force, expect or mandate things to be completed.



HOME LEARNING FOR BMHS STUDENTS

Bernice MacNaughton High School's plan:

- Last week homeroom teachers called home to check-in (it is important we have parents' up-to-date phone number/e-mail, please let me know if this has changed)
- Teachers have e-mailed students in their subject courses the work/activities on or by Tuesday, April 14th in most classes
- Teachers will continue to provide direction on work/activities, and it is recommended that students check their school e-mail regularly

A few points on home learning:

- Each subject teacher will determine how to best facilitate continued learning for their assigned courses, including the electronic platforms used
- Teacher-student contact will be through their school e-mail (nbss accounts), if students have difficulty with their account they must send a text a message to this number [1-506-378-2019](tel:1-506-378-2019) or email eaststudents@nbed.nb.ca. or use the link on the BMHS website under QuickLinks. Alternatively, reach out to your homeroom teacher who will get a staff member to support the concern.
- Students already enrolled in NB distance learning courses can continue with these courses
- Students are encouraged to spend 2.5 hours per day keeping up with their course work, in addition to 30 min. reading and at least 30 min. engaged in physical activity
- Learning activities will be more student-directed; students can request feedback or support when needed from their subject teacher
- Resource teachers are discussing supports for students with personalized learning plans
- Teachers will not be providing grades:
 - Grade 9/10 courses- Students are considered enrolled and will move on to the next grade when school resumes. Students are encouraged to engage in home learning opportunities provided so they are better prepared for the next grade, to the extent they can.
 - Grade 11/12 courses- Students are considered enrolled and will move on to the next grade or graduate. Students are encouraged to engage in home learning opportunities provided so they are better prepared for the next grade, to the extent they can. Students who complete the course requirements to achieve a credit will have this indicated on their transcript. This will indicate to post-secondary institutions that the core curricular competencies were met in the course.



As we move forward, subject teachers will outline how students will demonstrate their learning to earn a credit. Please note, credits are only provided for grade 11 and 12 courses in New Brunswick.

Students will have to communicate their interest to obtain a credit to their subject teacher by April 27.

As identified, subject teachers will communicate home learning opportunities via students' school email accounts. As a parent or guardian, we cannot easily include your email to receive this communication at the same time, based on the setup of our system. We encourage you to engage with your child to stay current on what is assigned from their subject teachers.

As we shift to communicating and learning in this way, we are asking **all students to check and use their school email regularly**. School email is accessible by logging into their Office365 account by visiting office.com. Students use their regular login (which follows the form of their username followed by @nbss.nbed.nb.ca) and password. This is the same information students use to login at school.

Here is a short video demonstrating how students can login to their Office365 account:

https://youtu.be/knd_mmnNsx0

Q & A

Currently, you may have questions about your child's graduation status, credits or certificates.

Here are a few answers to questions you might have.

Has my grade 12 child graduated?

All students who were on track to graduate are graduating in June. We encourage students to engage in learning even if it is not required to graduate as this will be beneficial for their readiness to pursue post secondary institutions.

What does on track for graduation mean?

On-track refers to any grade 12 student who had at least 12 credits at the end of the first semester, January 2020. An exception would be a student who had 11 credits in January but was taking six courses second semester to achieve 17 credits.



Will graduates get French Immersion certificates in 2020?

If students were on track to meet the required number of hours based on previous courses and those courses enrolled in this semester, then yes, they will still receive the French Immersion Certificate.

Will students pursuing an Adult High School Diploma be able to meet their requirements?

Students who are pursuing an Adult High School Diploma will receive an enrolled status for their current courses allowing them to graduate with this diploma.

What will appear on student transcripts for Gr 11-12?

ENR on the transcript indicates a student was enrolled in a course second semester. Courses with the ENR designation will count towards the required graduation courses; however, credit will not be awarded.

CR on the transcript indicates a student has met the core curricular components of a course through assigned work and formative feedback from the teacher. Credits will be awarded but no mark will be assigned. Requirements for obtaining CR will be at the discretion of the teacher, taking the circumstances of the student into account. The opportunity to earn CR may not be available in all courses depending on the capacity of the teacher and the particulars of the course.

What about grade 11 students, what is their graduation requirements/expectation?

Students graduating in June 2021 will require minimally 12 credits, with all required courses covered by either a credit or enrolled notation. This will ensure consistency between the two graduating years.

What is the benefit of getting a credit vs. enrolled notation?

A credit on the transcript will indicate to post secondary institutions that core curricular competencies were met. Some post secondary institution might want proof of completion of competencies.

Is there a maximum number of credits a student can earn this semester?

In the midst of this situation, it is the students' choice to earn credits or not. The EECD suggest that it is difficult to envision a case where any student would be attempting more than 2-3 credits.



The Department of Education and our school district have created sites with general resources by subject area. Classroom teachers may direct students to some of these resources for their home learning plans. These resources can be found at:

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/education/learning_at_home.html

<https://secure1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-E/SitePages/LearningAtHome.aspx>

We are not currently permitted to allow students to access the school. The district is consulting with the Department of Health on how we can allow students to retrieve their personal items while meeting the expectations for social distancing.

I personally want to thank you on behalf of my staff for your understanding and support as we strive to bring normalcy in learning as we move forward for the remainder of this school year.

Sincerely,

Martin Daigle

Principal

Bernice MacNaughton High School