



Monday, April 27, 2020

Assessment & Evaluation at VC During Emergency Home Learning  
"Learning & Accountability guided by Empathy"

In these extraordinary times, our priority as a school is to focus on students' emotional well-being and physical safety while keeping them engaged in learning. Understanding the challenges that families may be facing, our administration and faculty are even more sensitive to the importance of empathy and compassion for our students during this time.

There is a delicate balance between learning (demonstrated curricular understanding) and accountability (expectations as a learner); both of which need to be guided by empathy for each student.

Indeed students will have the opportunity to show progress with an emphasis being placed on learning and understanding of curricular competencies over compliance with grades determined accordingly.

As we look toward planning final assessments for the year and in light of the ongoing learning situation, we are announcing the following:

- Middle & Senior School exam weeks will be cancelled.
- Middle School & Senior School Teachers may decide to do a final summative task (projects, tests, assignments, etc.) which students will have time to complete in June once classes are finished.
- Classes will end as follows regardless of the learning situation in June:
  - Grade 10 to 12: Friday, June 5th
  - Grade 9: Friday, June 12th
  - K to Grade 8: Friday, June 19th
- All students will receive a final report card in June.

For additional background information, please find below a selection of important FAQs from the Ministry of Education related to grades, school completion, and graduation. Further details can be found in the [full Ministry of Education FAQ document](#).

Please contact your Assistant Principal if you have specific questions. Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these times.

Wishing you and your family all the best,

The Vancouver College Administration Team

## **Important Q & A information from the British Columbia Ministry of Education:**

Will all students graduate?

- As in any given school year, those students on track or eligible to graduate will be able to graduate provided the student has completed sufficient learning in their coursework. This includes what they have learned since the course started, along with the learning they will complete from now until the end of the school year.

What does “on track to graduate” and “eligible to graduate” mean?

- They mean the same thing. To be “eligible to graduate” means a student will satisfy all graduation requirements upon successful completion of courses they currently have underway and are continuing through to June 2020. This does not mean that students will graduate “no matter what.”

What is considered “sufficient learning”?

- Sufficient learning means that a student would be able to pursue further learning in the curricular and content area based on what they know, understand, and are able to demonstrate. Sufficient learning will be determined by teachers using their professional judgment.
- Grounded in the curriculum, teachers will assess what individual students know, understand, and are able to demonstrate to determine whether enough learning has taken place to enable the student to pursue further learning in the curricular and content area. This is the case in any school year.

Do students need to complete more course work in addition to what was completed prior to the suspension of in-class instruction?

- Yes, students are expected to continue their learning for each course they are enrolled in. If students are experiencing challenges with this, they should be working with their teacher and school directly.

How much course work needs to be completed?

- The Ministry is not mandating or specifying the minimum number of hours that must be completed for a student to receive credit for a grade 10, 11, or 12 course. Hours do not necessarily reflect the actual learning that occurs. The focus is on determining if, and how, sufficient learning has taken place during these exceptional circumstances.
- Students are expected to continue their learning for each course they are enrolled in and to complete assignments set out by their teachers to finish their courses. Teachers will work with students to develop plans and set reasonable expectations given the current circumstances.

Will all students get a final grade for each course they are enrolled in?

- Yes, all students will receive a final grade for each course they are enrolled in and successfully complete from now until the end of the school year.

Will all students be given a passing grade, no matter what?

- No, students will not be given a “free pass.” Students are expected to continue their learning for each course they are enrolled in and expected to demonstrate that they know and understand the learning standards for successful completion of the course.

How will a final grade be determined?

- Teachers will determine a final grade for students based on work completed to date and the assessment of learning that will occur over the coming months.