

December 7, 2020

Dear Innovations' parents,

As my administrative team and I have reviewed student grades from Term 1, I wanted to share some important information with you about our students' academic progress. We know that during the COVID-19 pandemic, our students' educational experience has completely changed. Many families in our community have been severely impacted by the pandemic, and the toll has been felt in students' academic performance.

Our current data shows that 61% of Innovations students finished classes during 1<sup>st</sup> term. Some students finished many credits and are on track with their goals, but others only finished one or two classes and will need to catch up. Then we have the 40% who hadn't finished any classes when we pulled our data. Many of these students are taking college classes and won't have credits finished until the semester break. However, we have concerns to address moving forward.

As you know, Innovations students do not receive 'F' grades at the end of a term if they are not done with a class. Students have the option of continuing work on their classes and finishing them later. The flexibility in our school is one of the reasons families choose our school over traditional high schools. However, I'm concerned about our students who are earning less than the minimum 1.5 credits per term and about the number of Innovations' students who are not completing assignments or engaging with their schoolwork.

Although it hasn't traditionally been a requirement that students attend live classes, during the pandemic we strongly encourage students to attend them to stay on track. Our schedule of live Zoom classes is found on our website [here](#). If your student works with their mentor teacher and attends the live classes they need to attend they will finish classes more quickly and will have more support to learn, succeed and reach the goals they have set with their mentor teacher. If students are having difficulty planning their daily school schedule, they need to meet with their mentor teacher.

My staff and I will continue to work to reach every student, but we also need your support. Here are some things you can do to help us help your student:

1. Check to see if your child is in their Zoom classes. Students who attend their classes do better.
2. Check with your child's mentor teacher often for progress updates.
3. Become an observer on your student's Canvas account. Check with your mentor teacher with questions about how to do this.
4. Attend teachers' office hours on Wednesdays if you need help.
5. Encourage students to meet with Innovations tutors weekly.
6. Limit phone and video game use during school hours.

The Innovations' team cares deeply about every one of our students, and we want to implement solutions and supports *now* to make sure none of our students gets left behind this year.

Please reach out if there are specific circumstances with which we can support your student and your family during this difficult time. We're here to help however we can.

Sincerely,

Pam Pedersen

Principal, Innovations Early College High School