

April 27, 2021

Good Day SJA Students and Families:

As you are aware, the Nova Scotia Provincial Government announced yesterday (26 April 2021) that all schools in the HRCE would pivot to Scenario 3 in the [Back to School Plan](#). In Scenario 3, students will be learning from home with direct and ongoing virtual instruction by teachers. Please be aware that the expectations of Scenario 3 will look much different than the on-line learning that took place in the Spring of 2020 in that classes will be virtual, attendance will be taken, and assessments will be evaluated which will impact overall course grades. This response plan only occurs at the direction of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. It will last only until it is safe to return to school with full or partial opening. For our students, at-home learning will begin on Thursday, April 29, 2021. It will be in effect until, at least, Friday, May 7, 2021 – at which time the NS Government will make an announcement on how teaching and learning will look after that date. In preparation for at-home learning, please take a minute to review the following.

### What Does At-Home Learning Look Like in Scenario 3?

- SJA students will follow our [regular school schedule](#). For example, our first class on Thursday is 'C' block (from 9:25am-10:40am). Students would attend their 'C' block class during that time.
- Our Friday Schedule will continue to rotate as normal:  
Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> – “Wednesday” Schedule  
Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – “Thursday” Schedule
- Classes will meet their teachers, virtually, through Google Meets. These links will be accessible through the Google Classroom associated with the particular class.
- During classes, teaching and learning will take place both 'synchronously' and 'asynchronously':

**Asynchronous Communication** – Communication that does not occur at the same time, with a possible lag or gap between providing the information and the recipient taking in the information and providing a response. Examples: email, messaging, discussion forums, posted videos, complete online tasks, assignments, projects.

**Synchronous Communication** – Real-time communication. Synchronous communication should take a variety of forms depending on the instructional purpose. The range should include individual, small group, and whole class. Examples: video conferencing, phone conversations, conference calls, face-to-face, scheduled/planned individual/small-group support.

- Students can expect to be part of synchronous communication with each of their teachers for 30-35 minutes each day. The remaining portion of time for each class will be used for asynchronous communication.
- To be successful, learning from home will require many of the same things that face-to-face in-person classroom instruction does: clear understanding of what is being taught and what the learner will achieve, review and practice connected to the learning, checking for understanding, feedback, and opportunities to use the feedback to improve learning. As such, students and families must understand that attendance each day is necessary. Teachers will be taking attendance for each class, on a daily basis, and entering it into Powerschool as they would normally do.
- Teachers will continue with assessments to inform them on student learning/progress. Assessments given out during this at-home learning period **WILL** count towards students' final grade in the course. These marks will be entered into Powerschool/Gradebook and will impact student grades in the course. It is imperative that students complete all work assigned during the at-home learning period.

- No different than in-school learning, feedback for these assignments will be timely and meaningful to aid with student success.

## Technology

Most of our students now have access to a school-issued Chromebook or a device of their own. These will be necessary during at-home learning. We recognize that yesterday's announcement came at the end of the day. As such, if students need to borrow a school-issued Chromebook they should e-mail their vice principal (Mr. Connors A-L; Ms. Wilkins M-Z) to set up a time between 9:30am – 3:00pm on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> to sign one out. When you arrive at your designated time, please ring the buzzer in the middle of the main doors. Do not enter the building. A staff member will bring the Chromebook out to you. If students are in need of a Chromebook but unable to get to the school during these times, they should also contact their vice-principal to arrange a date that best works for them. Similarly, if a student's technology fails during the at-home learning period, please have them reach out to their VP.

## Support for Students

School administration, guidance counsellors, teaching support teams, student-support workers, and student planning teams will work together to provide supports to ensure that student needs are being addressed through scheduling and program planning; this planning will be done using the guidance documents at regional and provincial levels and the principles and directives of the Inclusive Education Policy to guide decision making. If students or families require supports during this period, please reach out to a member of the administration, their guidance counsellor, or a member of our resource team.

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While we hope that this period of at-home learning does not last long, teaching and learning will continue as if we were still in our building. We recognize that the switch to this model, along with the current health crisis in Nova Scotia, can impact student well-being. We will do all we can from our end to help our students thrive during these uncertain times.

We look forward to seeing all of our students – virtually – on Thursday!

Sincerely,

The SJA Staff

### ***Administration, Guidance, Department Heads (DH)***

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