

## **Lunchtime Ward 11 Forum – Updated School Reopening Plans - Secondary**

### **Q&A CHAT QUESTIONS answered**

- Registraton, TimeTabling
- Health & Safety & Facilities
- Secondary Programming
- Virtual School
- Special Education
- Questions also answered in Forum/Presentation

### **Q&A CHAT: Registration, TimeTabling**

Q: We are new student (Grade 9 of TOPS program at MGCI). We are not in TDBS system yet. How do we register for MGCI?

If you were admitted last spring to the program, you should be in the system for MGCI and registered. If not, contact the school office.

Q: Given that there was new funding provided-yesterday by the federal government....will this model change?

Staff are currently assessing how this funding can be used and determining the implications for our system. We will update when we have a sense of staff's best thinking.

Q: do you have approximate stats for staff? opting for virtual school vs in person?

We are still in the process of determining this. The schools and virtual schools staffing needs will be based on the registration survey which closed on August 30.

### **Q&A CHAT: Health & Safety & Facilities**

Q: what is timing on upgrades?

This will vary based on kind of work required and whether funding is available.

Q: What will be the spacing between desks

It will depend on the size of room, which varies depending on the subject area in a secondary school. Secondary school classes will have approximately 15 kids per class in school.

Q: If teachers are only able to be exposed to a maximum of 100 students how can the Resource space continue to offer a drop in without impacting the health and safety of both students and staff?

There will be a maximum number of students permitted in a Resource room/library. There will be safe physical distancing which limit those numbers.

Q: will those PDs happen in school during those 3 days?

There is mandatory professional development for all teachers from September 1 to 3. September 1 is focussed on health and safety protocols/school classroom and safety set-up, which teachers must complete before coming to the first day of school. This will be completed remotely. September 2 and 3 will require teachers to be on site. The professional learning on those days will be focussed on anti-discrimination/anti-Black racism/anti-indigenous racism, the new mathematics curriculum, remote learning strategies and tools, and mental health, Well-being (staff and students) and anti-bullying.

Q: If a student falls ill or is exposed and needs to isolate, will there be processes in place to allow that student to continue with their cohort even if they cannot attend in person for two weeks?

It is expected that the students could do work remotely if well enough and that they could hopefully engage in virtual sessions (the 2:00-3:15 session) and liaise via email with teacher or Brightspace platform about any assignments.

Q: You mentioned twice per day cleaning of touch points - how often will washrooms be cleaned? I would think this would need to be almost constantly to be safe - can you please advise more specifically?

The caretaking staff will be regularly checking the cleanliness of restrooms as part of the ensuring high touch surfaces are cleaned.

Q: Is it correct that water fountains will not be operating this year?

They may be accessible to refill water bottles but not for drinking directly out of the spout. We will be asking kids to bring water bottles filled with water to drink while at school. However, the TDSB announced on August 26<sup>th</sup> that we will also be adding refillable water filling fountains to all schools that currently do not have one. Note that once this initiative begins, it may take some time to install the stations across the school board.

Q: Any plans to compensate for missing the water fountains?

See above.

Q: What is the minimum # of water filling stations to be mandated by TDSB?

We hope that by the end of the school year, every school will have at least one.

Q: Will TDSB weigh in on province looking at installing Safe Injection Site?

Safe Injection Sites are not an area of expertise for TDSB nor are we part of the application process of the City of Toronto to Health Canada if there is an application. We have made our views clear about the challenges and concerns we have about what is happening in the neighbourhood and our belief that this is not an ideal location in such close proximity to schools. To date, the city has been responsive to many of our concerns and has been working collaboratively with local school, TDSB staff, school council chairs and trustees to try to mitigate the impact of the situation and ensure the safety and well-being of our school community, both to and from school and as well as while students are in school.

Q: any update on the safe injection site they want to open at the shelter? this is way too close to the schools

Our understanding is that an application has not yet been made by the City of Toronto.

#### **Q&A CHAT: Secondary Programming**

Q: when they apply to university, they have to state that they are at the virtual school? does that show on their transcripts?

We are still working out the details of the student transcripts for the virtual school.

Q: how will we do in person and remote attendance

Attendance will be taken every day. Teachers can see who is logged in remotely for the virtual school. Attendance in schools will be both web-based and paper based.

Q: for kids starting Grade 9, will there be an orientation session before school starts?

No. Once school starts classroom teachers will work with their grade 9 classes to support their transition. Some secondary schools may create a virtual tour of the school and make this available to students.

Q: this is a change from the board mtg last night where they stated extra help is available from 12:30-200

Teachers will have a 40 minute lunch during that time period. Teachers will also be engaging in a number of activities to support students and/or their class resources including offering extra help (virtually if possible).

Q: Will the GLE course be delivered any differently than what you have outlined?

GLE will be delivered the same when students are in person. Virtually, it will be synchronous as per the secondary model.

Q: is livestream option viable?

Teachers doing in class instruction will not be expected to livestream to those at home. If you do not plan to attend in person, you should elect to be enrolled in the virtual school.

Q: Will the virtual classes be recorded to allow for viewing at a later time?

This has not yet been determined.

Q: In the even that Toronto's Covid # stay low and we find ourselves in an even better situation, will this current school model remain or will we proceed to a next level model?

We have not been given information on this. The province would provide this direction.

Q: Will grade 8 students be able to attend open houses in November prior to choosing their high school.

At this point, we have no information on open houses. We are avoiding situations with large gatherings and assemblies so virtual open houses may be an option that might have to be considered.

Q: Knowing that there are internet concerns in schools and most of the teacher computers do not have cameras etc... why are teachers being asked to teach the afternoon part from the school? Is the TDSB providing all teachers with computers with cameras etc..?

All teachers who require a device with a camera will be provided with one by the school. Principals are asking their teachers this question to ensure that they do have a device.

Q: Would some courses in person also be cancelled due to lack of sufficient enrollment? Will any in person classes that were approved to run last June end up being cancelled because students have moved into virtual, and fewer students are enrolled in person?

Yes. This is possible once the principal receives the virtual and an in person school numbers for their school. This would be like any year, where classes that are not full enough sometimes

have to be cancelled. However, we will always ensure kids get compulsory courses needed for post-secondary study.

Q: i have asked this elsewhere, to no avail... what is the minimum for in class course and what is the minimum for virtual class course?

For secondary schools, this varies by course and level. For elementary schools it is based on the grade division.

Q: further to in-class learning moves online, due to a second wave, will the online model for these kids be as robust as the remote/virtual schools? -- conversely, will virtual school learners have option to sign in to home school classes as a result?

Yes. If we move back to full remote learning, there would be a minimum of 225 minutes of synchronous learning as per Ministry PPM 164

(<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/164.html>)

Virtual school classes would stay intact if all schools move back to remote learning. Only on the designated dates at the end of the quadmester can students return to their home school.

Q: how can one incorporate online elearning into a quad if choosing virtual/remote option? and is the elearning credit considered a home school credit? (for enrollment purposes)

Day school Elearning credits are separate from virtual classes and school classes. They are TDSB credits. Students should contact their secondary guidance counsellor for registration information.

Q: what happens to school and teachers if majority students opt for online?

With student registrations having closed on August 29, we still need to look at data to make this determination.

Q: Band - virtually? how about students opting for in-class learning?

Our program specialists completed a program manual for all subject areas which will be shared with teachers next week. Music and band courses are part of this information. Although instruments can still be used, it will be individual and will not be in a group as per the direction of Toronto Public Health. Band in most cases will be virtual. Strategies for teachers are part of this resource support.

Q: what is happening with our foods and fashion classes? will they be allowed to cook and sew?

On Friday Principals received a draft program document from our system subject specialists which outlines how to proceed with all subject areas, including hands on technical studies areas for teachers, to reference when school starts. All subjects offered will still be taught but they have had to change due Health and Safety requirements and direction from TPH if they involve sharing items or equipment. Teachers begin reviewing this information when they return to school next week. There will still be limited hands on work in classes which require it, but courses will look different than in the past. Note that curriculum expectations of each course will still be met by teachers and there is likely to be a greater focus on project-based learning. As we get closer to the school year and we finalize the program guide, more information will be shared by the school and our board (likely on the website) in greater detail.

### **Q&A CHAT: Virtual School**

Q: My son will study period remote and will be centralized (having different teachers). His teachers from Northern will have a parallel Google class register in case of necessity. Would it be possible that they can access ONLY for being updated of his teachers work?

No, this will not be possible as students cannot be registered in the virtual school and home school at the same time.

Q: Re virtual school - Will the synchronous lessons be recorded so that students who may miss them can watch them at a later point in the day?

This has not yet been determined.

Q: The TDSB website states for VIRTUAL SCHOOL that 2 hours minimum synchronous/course/day. Slides here say 90 minutes min. synchronous/course/day. Mr. Chasty - please clarify.

We should go by the website. Sorry for any confusion.

Q: google classroom is not longer a viable option for online teaching? this is only a requirement of the online model?

Teachers at the Virtual School will all be using Brightspace as their platform, which is a full robust LMS supported and funded by the Ministry of Education. Google Classroom is not an LMS but teachers may use it to supplement their teaching with BrightSpace.

Q: will transcripts say your home school as well

A transcript will only list one school. The school on the transcript for the Virtual School credits is still being determined.

Q: Are online courses listed as the same as the in-school courses on the transcript?

Yes

Q: Have thoughts turned to the integrity of the exam process for virtual school? "How to cheat on virtual tests?" is a pretty common Google search ...

Teachers will be using assessment practices in line with Ministry requirements and will be using practices that best promote academic honesty.

Q: what happens to labs in virtual learning?

Teachers will find ways to teach these concepts in a different way from traditional lab setting, but will be virtual in nature, either by live demonstration by the teacher or by using virtual tools available

Q: For virtual school, can we still arrange in-school for laboratory classes?

No, this will not be accommodated.

Q: in opting for virtual school, would the dropping and changing courses done through our home school or we have to contact the virtual school counsellors?

Once a student is registered in virtual school, it would be a virtual school counsellor.

Q: would it be possible to go past the 30 cap in online programs if they need to add one extra student in if that student requires that course for university application?

Yes, for secondary programs.

Q: For current in-school option, there is only 225min. In school time including toilet break and other breaks, out of all 600min. Study time every two days. Why there is no any in-school time for online groups?

The secondary model which the Ministry approved is the best model we could put forward, while supporting student safety. Students may choose to get together on their own in online groups on the days when they are working independently on their classwork.

Q: how can my son connect to virtual learning?

If your child needs to borrow a device from the TDSB, you can contact your principal from the school you are currently enrolled in (even if you plan to do virtual).

### **Q&A CHAT: Spec.Ed –**

Q: How will kids with IEPs and LD be supported while in independent learning, some simply cannot focus unless an adult is guiding them...

For in school students, Principals will be working to schedule Resource periods for students who need this support on those days, so that a teacher can engage synchronously to support students. There will also be Special Education teachers at the Virtual School to support students the same way.

Q: According to the Sp. Ed Guidelines it states: ..."All students with special education needs will have attendance options including daily in school attendance or remote learning and will have access to a Resource Teacher as per their IEP. How will schools accommodate this daily option knowing that we are trying to minimize contact between the cohorts?

For in school students, Principals will be working to schedule Resource periods for students who need this support on those days, so that a teacher can engage synchronously to support students. There will also be Special Education teachers at the Virtual School to support students the same way. We believe that a student, when they are in person at a school, will still be able to receive Resource support with a Special Education teacher, in a different location, with a small cohort of students, ensuring that physical distancing is maintained in that environment.

### **Q&A CHAT: TOPS, Gifted**

Q: what are options on/for incorporating elearning into their quad if opting for virtual -- especially those in congregate/specialized programs?

Day school Elearning credits are separate from virtual classes and school classes. They are TDSB credits. Students should contact their secondary guidance counsellor for registration information.

Q: Hi, my question is about specialty programs such as TOPS, MACS etc. Is the Principal/Program director empowered to decide on whether to deliver the courses as they see fit (online or in-school) with the teachers from their school/program? Thank you.

Yes. Providing the teacher is qualified in the specific subject area.

Q: how is it being determined what teachers are qualified to teach TOPS?

Secondary school teachers have "teachable" qualifications that determine what they are qualified to teach.

Q: If Tdsb expects only 20% students opt for virtual courses, can Tops students be grouped with MaCS, Satec, Mast, Smr students to make the 30 student quorum needed to justify a virtual course? If not, can they be assigned to gifted or IB rather than academic or applied courses?

Once we have all of the student registrations for the virtual secondary school, we will do our best to cohort students should there be sufficient enrollment (minimum of 30) for a specific program.

Q: If TOPS program has many teachers who opt to teach remotely, how will be the gaps of teaching resources be filled.

The school would hire staff to fill gaps.

Q: will spec prog like TOPS graduates be given spec credits for completing their program? these are so intense

Once we have all of the student registrations for the virtual secondary school, we will do our best to cohort students should there be sufficient enrollment (minimum of 30) for a specific program. If there was sufficient enrollment for a TOPS class for a specific grade, this could be possible.

Q: For tops students, most of them are not from the school zone. For 225min in-school learning every 600min. Formal learning time, it may take students 180min. In traffic every two days. Can we change it to one full day in school every four days?

No we cannot accommodate this request. Approximately 50% of high school students in the TDSB attend schools that are not their home school. This is not something only TOPS students deal with.

Q: Is there possible for the specialised program teacher who opt to teach remotely, such as TOPS, to teach TOPS online students?

No, we cannot guarantee this.

Q: do you have stats specific to MGCI teachers opting for virtual school?

No. Information about specific teachers who have requested accommodations as well as to teach at the Virtua School would be confidential to that individual teacher.

Q: Tdsb estimates only 20% students will opt for remote learning. My tops child only knows 3 others who have decided for remote. My gifted child knows no one opting for remote. The only way we'll reach the 30 students required to staff a remote class is if tops is combined with other math science programs like macs satec mast smr, even if they're not exactly the same as

tops. Please spread the word to all math science program families to request combining these programs online.

Once we have all of the student registrations for the virtual secondary school, we will do our best to cohort students should there be sufficient enrollment (minimum of 30) for a specific program.

### **Q&A CHAT – Questions also answered in Forum/Presentation**

Q: When are the schedules being done and the cohorts being decided?

Student registrations closed on August 29. Principals will be working with their student data, this includes the Virtual Schools. Student timetables for the first quadmester will be emailed to students prior to the first day of school.

Q: What is the plan for course selection? What additional support will be given to kids with IEPs

For course selection for the next school year, which takes place in February, the process is still being determined.

Q: How is the TOPS program impacted in-class vs virtual, do we still have an enriched programm

If students are registered in the TOPS program and select in person learning, there will be in-class TOPS classes. Please see the responses above for the Virtual School.

Q: same questions re: gifted, IEPs and guidance support -- home school vs. virtual school and switching between.

Both the Virtual Schools and the home schools will have Special Education and Counselling staff to support students.

Q: How will the TOPS / MACS entrance tests be scheduled and conducted?

This will be announced through those schools in the fall, as per usual.

Q: When is Guidance back in the school?

Week of September 1, however, teachers will be doing professional development from Sept 1-3.

Q: what is the contact in case we did not receive updates about registration?

Please contact your local principal.

Q: how will supports for IEPs work between virtual and in class -- if/once one chooses to switch?

The resource team at the virtual school and teachers at virtual will look after virtual students, and in school resource and in school teachers will look after in school teachers. If you switch back and forth, this would be transferred.

Q: is there an option for in-class TOPS ?

If students are registered in the TOPS program and select in person learning at their school, there will be in-class TOPS classes.

Q: With the very short quadesters, will there be some attempts by school for balancing the courses - eg not having gym and drama in one quad and then math and science in the next? Especially for our kids who are just starting grade 9 / high school?

Ideally, there is always an attempt at balancing timetables. If the timetable is not balanced for an individual student, you can contact your guidance counsellor to try to make a change.

Q: Will virtual guidance counsellors have contact with home school guidance... as well as any other specialized home school supports (gifted ACL for IEPs, etc)

If a Virtual School Guidance Counsellor needs to contact a colleague in another school in support of a student request, they can do so.

Q: re: gifted and other specialized programs: it is stated that there will be qualified teachers, "qualified" does not mean experienced. What previous Gifted or TOPS experience will the remote school teachers have?

A teacher will have the subject qualifications for a course, however it is unlikely that they will have TOPS experience should a TOPS virtual school course run. For a Gifted program, teachers must have Special Education qualifications.

Q: pls answer if courses will be offered both in the virtual ss and the home school .... third ask! It will depend on whether there is sufficient enrollment to make a class, same as in a normal school year.

Q: Will the timetable cover the whole year, or will they be sent a quadester at a time?

Students will be able to get a timetable with the full year before school starts. The initial email may only have the first quadmester on it, but information will be shared about how to access the full timetable for all students closer to the start of school.

Q: Please clarify: is independent learning - eg. Cohort A, Day 2, Course 1 - anticipated to happen at the school, albeit online, or at home?

At home

Q: Since there will be phys ed will there also be school teams / tryouts for sports like typical years

We will not have sports teams this fall.

Q: will the same courses be offered in the virtual secondary school?

It will all depend on student enrollment. All core subjects will be offered, but electives will depend on number of registrants.

Q: what happens to in school students if outbreak and school shuts down? then what

The in school teachers would then provide virtual learning.

Q: can you explain more the "study hall"?

Students who request, through the Principal to remain at the school to work independently after 12:30pm instead of returning home, will be able to stay at the school till the end of the school day. For example, if the cafeteria is the space designated by the Principal, the student may participate in their afternoon synchronous class with their headphones on, using a device. Students will be physically distant, there will be a limited number of seats, and there will be supervision by an adult staff member in the school.

Q: will virtual gifted courses have caps?

For secondary students, the cap for classes will 30 students or less. This is likely the same for Gifted programs.

Q: How will time tabling conflicts be resolved in time? Students are to contact their Guidance Counsellor at their home school.

Q: The question shall be asked this way: "if social distancing of children in class will be ensured by the school do you opt registering your child for "in person" or "remote" learning?" This way the parents are assured the safety of their children.

Our secondary classes will have 15 students, so there will be physical distancing between them.

Q: will in school spec prog be taught by existing spec prog teachers? or will those be randomly assigned teachers as well

Yes, if all Special Education staff return to school. If not, a teacher with Special Education qualifications will be assigned or hired by the Principal.

Q: Can students switch between in-school and online within 1st 14days of school?

No. Only at the quadmester breaks as per the dates posted on the TDSB website (approximately every 10 weeks)

Q: Will grade 12 students be guaranteed to get the courses they need for University entrance? Are their needs being prioritized?

Required courses for graduation are always prioritized.

Q: For course change requests do we contact the guidance counsellor? YES

Q: How can we get our time table for school

It will be emailed to students for Quadmester 1.

Q: what about course change requests for the virtual school?

Please contact the Virtual School guidance counsellor once you receive communication from that school,

Q: how do you add or drop courses for in- school and for virtual school?

Please contact the Guidance Department

Q: how will gr 12 have assurance they will have everything needed to graduate with all credits and spec prog status for university applications

Required courses for graduation are always prioritized by the Principal

Q: Will universities be changing the timeline for applications given the quad approach?

We have not yet received this information from universities.

Q: Are kids who are attending in-person, allowed to also take an elearning course at the same time(not virtual school)

Yes, if in grade 11 or 12, and if there is space (these courses fill up very quickly each year)

Q: Does "full timetable" mean they will show all courses scheduled for the year, ie. what is in each quadmester?

Yes.

Q: For those TOPS students who choose virtual option, will they be able to go back to TOPS after the situation changes and they wish to choose in school?

Yes.

Q: how are you planning to protect children coming to schools close to Mt.Pleasant/Eglinton with the shelter being across the street?

Q: How is TDSB and Northern ensure safety of their students vis-a-vis the shelter across the road?

Q: will more caretakers be assigned to Northern to handle all the clean up -- covid and shelter-related?

Q: what about the human defecation at Northern?

With respect to a few questions specific to the situation at Northern and the shelter at the Roehampton, a communication will be going out to families of nearby schools shortly outlining what is being undertaken to ensure a safe return to school.