



J. Addison School

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October 16, 2020

EVERY STUDENT EMPOWERED, EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS!

Dear Parents,

The recent COVID-19 outbreak has caused schools all over Canada and the world to adapt to remote learning. We all want what's best for our students here at J. Addison School so please know that you are not alone. Students, parents, teachers, and educators from all over the world are facing this challenge as one unified team.

Over the summer, our Administration team met to discuss how we would be able to meet the learning needs of our day students and our students overseas. We wanted to provide in-class learning for our day students and live online learning to our students overseas. After an exhaustive search, we decided to proceed with Microsoft Teams.

With Microsoft Teams, we discovered that learning in-class and online can be just as personal, engaging and socially connected, as learning in a classroom. Students and teachers can stay engaged and support each other using conversations, and can feel like they are meeting in person using live meetings. Teachers can track student progress in their daily work using Assignments. No one needs to feel disconnected. Many students who learn online have expressed that they feel they have a voice, and they feel well-connected to their teachers and peers, similarly to being in the classroom. And, just like in a classroom, teachers can use the apps and functions of Teams to support how they work best.

Within Teams, teachers can quickly converse with students, share files and websites, create a OneNote Class Notebook, and distribute and grade assignments. Built-in OneNote Class Notebooks and end-to-end assignment management allows teachers to organize interactive lessons and provide effective and timely feedback. Teachers, administrators and staff can stay up-to-date and collaborate using Staff Teams for announcements and topical conversations. Teachers can share instructional material using Professional Learning Communities. It provides the perfect marriage of online and in-class learning.

Our first high school course ended on October 9, 2020 and we are very pleased with our student success. As we embark on our Second Course (which will run October 13, 2020 to November 13, 2020), we are confident our students are well on the path to success.

Our decision to create one course per month for high school has met with success as well. Students are telling us that they can focus on a single course and immerse themselves in one subject. One of our best features of One Course at-a-time is that it gives students the time to *truly focus*. Students have the opportunity to learn the course material more intensively and thoroughly which raises their interest level of the subjects at the same time. Concepts and problems come to life when their teachers teach

with them rather than at them, and when their classmates are similarly focused, the class naturally spurs excitement.

In this time of COVID-19, One Course at-a-time has allowed our students to be with one teacher for the duration of the course. There has been less movement between classes and this has allowed us to better control the flow of student traffic in the school. In essence, we have created monthly class bubbles. As students enter our school on a daily basis, they are monitored upon entry with temperature checks and hand sanitization. They go directly to their classes and teachers are there to ensure that they do not congregate in the halls. During lunchtime, students are escorted to the cafeteria one class at a time and must maintain social distancing at all times. All students are assigned their own seat at designated tables, with cleansing and sanitization by our cafeteria and custodial staff multiple times daily.

During this time of uncertainty, it is vital that parents and guardians remain positive and keep an open mind. Your children will adopt the same attitude and will be successful as a result. Please be assured we will make the necessary adjustments in order to continue optimizing health and safety at our school. We will also remain transparent and provide timely communications to our J. Addison community. Should you have any questions or concerns about your child, please feel free to contact our school at any time so that we can help you.

I would like to share with you a video which shows the Covid-19 prevention and safety enhancements our school has implemented <https://jaddisonschool.com/jas-promo-video/>.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lee Venditti".

Mr. Lee Venditti
Principal