



WRM Parents/Guardians and Students,

First, we would like to express our gratitude for your continued support this week, a week filled with uncertainty, change, and many challenges. We hope you are finding ways to support your family.

This email will serve to outline the steps WRM is taking in moving forward to support students in their courses. Please note that there are links to important information embedded in this email, and we ask you take time to carefully read through all information with your child to be aware of all aspects of this process.

Contents of this email:

1. Moving to Online Course Delivery
2. The Essentials: How to Access Google Classroom at Home
3. Reconnecting with your teacher
4. Another way to Connect
5. Moving Forward

Online Course Delivery - Classes will resume March 24th

This week, we have been waiting for guidance from the province with regards to the expectations to help inform how we move forward in supporting our students as a school.

- As it stands, the province has indicated schools provide a “base level of instruction” to their students.
- As we look to work within these parameters, and through collaboration with other schools and school divisions, WRM will be moving towards delivery of course content, and connection with students, through an online interface.
- The primary application that will facilitate this course delivery will be Google Classroom at W.R. Myers High School
 - While Google Classroom will be used as a baseline for communicating with students, teachers may use additional platforms for lesson delivery and content creation (HAPARA, Moodle, Powerpoint, Zoom, etc.).

How to Access Google Classroom from Home

Google Classroom is a communication and collaboration platform that will enable teachers and students the ability to connect in real-time, as well as facilitate access to class resources and materials. Students in the school district are able to access and download this software for free.

- The first step is ensuring your child knows their Horizon email and password.
 - This will also be important as all teachers will be using email to communicate with their students moving forward.
- The email should read **firstname.lastname@hsd67.ca**, and their password will be unique to them.
 - They should be able to login to their email through any google chrome browser.
- For any students who do not have this information, please call us directly at 403-223-2292.
 - Your password will be reset and information will be sent to you in how to log in.
- When students know their email and password, please email your teacher on your home computer to get access codes to Google Classrooms that are setup for you. Your teachers will also reach out to you via email with classroom codes.
 - Additionally, Google Classroom is available as an app to be downloaded to any mobile device (note that not all features of the desktop app will be available).
- Once Google Classroom is downloaded, students will be able to login with their email and password and access their classes.
- Parents Guide to Google Classroom - [Click Here](#)

Reconnecting with your teacher:

Careful consideration has been given to how the “new” school day will be structured, with the goal of:

- Keeping students connected to their current teachers.
- Offering a level of sequence and structure.
- Allowing students to progress through their classes in a predictable and consistent fashion.

Our course delivery seeks to preserve the greatest opportunity for our staff to maintain connections with students, support the work they will be undertaking online, and provide as much stability and support as possible, in a time where we believe this is of great importance.

On March 24th, teachers will be in contact with students through email and/or telephone to communicate how their classes will proceed.

- Moving forward, not all classes will proceed in the same fashion.
 - We are aware of the potential challenges to both students and teachers in their availability during the day.

- Teachers will communicate their availability to students and will be available during the school day via email or telephone.

Another Way to Connect

Students that have had access to the school over the past week may have noticed that we are using the W.R. Myers Instagram account to connect with the community. Please be encouraged to follow us on Instagram at “wrmhighschool” for daily challenges to stay active and have fun and also as a way to let us know how things are going. We also have our W.R. Myers Events Page on Facebook and school website for updated information.

Moving Forward

Knowing that we are transitioning into an unfamiliar space regarding how our students and staff will be connecting, we do so with the knowledge that there will be continued challenges and changes ahead. As we move forward, our first priority at WRM is supporting our students and community. We are considerate of the concerns surrounding how students will receive the education and information they are currently missing, and how to support their transition into next year. Please understand that each step we take moving forward is based on the understanding that:

- We are all in this together.
- We understand that we all will face challenges working and connecting in an online environment.
- Every one of the staff at WRM is here to help families and students through this process with the best intentions and with all available resources we have.
- We move forward through this process with a growth mindset understanding that things cannot be exactly as they were when students were able to be in the school.

We will also continue to be receptive and responsive to the direction provided to us by Alberta Education and work alongside all stakeholders in the best interest of our students, staff and community.

Thank you again for all of your support and we wish you health and wellness during this time of uncertainty.

Sincerely,

WRM Admin Team

Remote Learning Tip Sheet

Create Structure

CREATE A SCHEDULE FOR STUDENTS

It is vital to have a sense of structure and stability for students and caregivers.

Create a schedule that is balanced, one that includes some art and music throughout the day.

Include break times for students and give suggestions for being active.

Be a Presence

REDUCE ISOLATION AND SHOW YOU ARE AVAILABLE

One of the biggest issues with students learning online and particularly in this pandemic situation is the sense of isolation. Create a way for students to speak with you online that shows your face (for example Google Hangouts).

Create daily videos showing your face and be positive and upbeat, they will be counting on that.

Use Engaging and Current Tools

DIGITAL TOOLS ARE VITAL TO KEEPING STUDENTS ENGAGED

Be sure to use current online tools, avoid tools that use Flash Player and be cognizant of what students may have access to regarding internet speed.

Guide students to use the creative tools available to them; visually engage students.

Student engagement is vital and must include relevant, authentic learning.

Google Classroom

GOOGLE CLASSROOM IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO DELIVER ASSIGNMENTS

Familiarize yourself with Google Classroom (there are many tutorials online). Google Classroom now has the rubric feature for assessment and gives great access for feedback.

Classroom can be an excellent communication tool with parents as well.

Create a List of Resources

GATHERING A LIST OF ONLINE RESOURCES IS EXTREMELY HELPFUL

There are many amazing blogs and websites that are well established and have excellent tools.

Some examples are: Alice Keeler, Ditch the Textbook, Free Technology for Teachers, ADLC, WCLN.