

November 18, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Since the return to school in September, Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) staff have been monitoring and evaluating the realities of teaching and learning during a global pandemic, and continue to explore ways in which we can adapt our practices to best support our students.

In an effort to ensure that SCDSB secondary school students have access to a broad range of courses, and flexibility to move between learning modes when necessary, SCDSB secondary schools will be moving to a hybrid learning model beginning in February 2021. This means that all secondary school students will be assigned to classroom teachers from their home school and attend classes in-person at school or virtually through the digital learning platform, Desire2Learn (D2L). Teachers will provide instruction to students who are in class as well as those who are at home through the use of video technology.

The decision to move to a blended learning model at the secondary school level has been made in order to:

- provide students with access to a broad range of subjects;
- maintain consistency in learning and a connection between students and their home school;
- accommodate students who are required to remain home because they are ill or directed to self-isolate; and,
- respond to feedback received from students and parents/guardians regarding the Learn@Home program.

Student timetables previously established for semester two (quadmester three and four) will remain as scheduled. Please note that some courses may not be suitable for students who are learning from home. As a result, guidance counsellors will be contacting those students to discuss alternative options.

The decision to move to a hybrid learning model in February 2021 allows time for students to become familiarized with the digital learning platform D2L during the current quadmester two (November to February). This timing also allows for the proper technology to be installed in secondary school classrooms to support this transition and time for staff training.

We understand that you may have questions regarding the hybrid learning model. As such, we have added information to the parent/guardian support platform accessible through the [SCDSB website](#).

To stay connected and informed, visit our website at www.scdsb.on.ca or follow us on social media (Twitter: @SCDSB_Schools or Facebook: www.facebook.com/SCDSB).