



On-Site and Off-Site learning

September 4, 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to WRCA! These are unusual days. We face many challenges in many different areas of our lives and fortunately we have the opportunity of being a part of the WRCA learning community and facing these challenges together. **We are excited to begin another year of inspiring and cultivating godly citizens who transform their world for Christ.**

For most of the summer we made plans to have everyone back at school on September 8th with proper safety procedures. We did a lot of planning. On August 26th, the BC Ministry of Education announced that off-site learning would also be a part of the September restart. **This was new.** Since then, we have worked hard to come up with a plan that provides as safe an environment as possible while we deliver **fantastic IB Christian education for all our families – on-site and off-site.**

Here are some of the overall goals for our programming:

- **TRANSITIONARY.** We need students to be able to **move from the off-site program to the on-site program** or the other way around, with a relatively seamless transition. If students are sick, they need to stay home. If families feel comfortable sending their children back to school after some time at home, they need to come back to school. This means we need to offer **the same program in both places** but use technology to deliver the content at home.
- **SUSTAINABLE.** We need to create a program that is sustainable for our staff. Running two distinct programs at the same time is incredibly challenging.
- **TEMPORARY.** The government wants all students to transition back to on-site learning as soon as possible. So, we need our system to be temporary but sustainable for a significant period.
- **FLEXIBLE.** We need a program that can change over time to meet the wide variety of needs we have inside our student body. Our program can include live streaming (on the real-time timetable) and also a component that is digital (that can be completed by the student any time). Seesaw can still be a component inside this flexible program for Jr. School and Managebac can still be a component inside a flexible program for Sr. School.
- **TIME SENSITIVE.** Our teachers need time to implement and plan for these two concurrent programs. **None of us have ever put programs like this together during a pandemic.** We plan to take all of our available professional development days, meeting times, planning times and some extra days to make these programs successful for our staff and students. This means we may need to change a few days in our year calendar. Please be patient and flexible.
- **CREATIVE.** Our teachers are **remarkably and wonderfully creative.** Let's celebrate this creativity and support our staff as they try new things to engage students in their learning. **Being creative means taking risks.** Taking risks means some things will succeed brilliantly and other things will not. It requires patience from everyone as we extend grace to teachers, students, parents, and staff. **We must commit to working through these challenges together.**



Jr. School Off-Site Learning

There are several reasons why your child may end up using off-site learning. You may have chosen to start the year with off-site learning, your child may become ill at some point in time over the school year, or our cohort may need to isolate for a period of time.

We hope that off-site learning this time around will include these 3 components:

1. **REAL TIME INSTRUCTION.** Live Streaming Portions of class instruction time.
2. **SEESAW.** Assignments completed and submitted through Seesaw.
3. **INTERACTION.** Video conferencing with the teacher.

If the whole class is off-site, then the live streaming component might become Seesaw lessons. Please become familiar and proficient with Seesaw.

Let's just be candid right from the start – off-site learning isn't easy. It is going to take considerable effort from the **teacher**, the **parent** and of course, our wonderful **students**. Prepare yourself for this effort. Much of our success will depend upon how consistent, positive, thorough, diligent, and organized you are in this effort. Our program in our Jr School is comprehensive, rich, and creative. As "off-site learner parents", there will be a big responsibility that falls on you for your child's learning. We will help you along the way, encourage you in your efforts and be patient with your progress. But prepare yourself to work hard for your child's learning.

Our Goals and Roles:

- Our teachers are committed to being communicative, organized, available, patient and helpful.
- Our students need to commit to being self-disciplined, reliable, cooperative, patient and engaged. This includes:
 - Being present and ready for learning during Live Stream Sessions
 - Completing curriculum activities diligently and on time
 - Completing Seesaw activities by the due date
 - Attending video conferences
 - Reflecting and providing feedback on their own learning experience
- Our parents need to commit to being reliable, consistent, thorough, collaborative, patient, and engaged. This includes:
 - Connecting with your child to support their learning. Connect with teacher and other students through video conferencing/Seesaw/emails
 - Ensuring your child attends video conferences
 - Ensuring your child is properly connected to Seesaw
 - Providing dedicated learning space for your child in your home
 - Supervising workbooks, materials and supplies needed to complete the lessons
 - Providing support for students such as scribing answers, reading questions or finding videos on Seesaw or YouTube
 - Offering reflections and feedback to the student and teacher on the learning experiences



Sr. School Off-Site Learning

In a short amount of time, our staff worked extremely hard to create a program for our students which can be sustainable, creative, and effective. We have an incredible group of staff, parents, and students so we are enthusiastic and optimistic that this program will be successful. But we also know that our program may need adjustments over time as we figure this all out. We will need your help with honest feedback, creative ideas, and patient support. Let's extend grace to one another as we begin yet another adventure. Thank you for partnering with us.

Our key goals for our off-site learning:

- **SHARED EXPERIENCE.** Shared experience between off-site and on-site learners.
- **COMMON LEARNING OUTCOMES.** Ensure that all learning outcomes will be met by both on-site and off-site students. For this reason, a live-streaming component is imperative. Microsoft Teams (online meeting platform) has been set up for every class. All students, off-site and on-site, will experience their classes using MS Teams. **Classes will have a 'live stream' component and every off-site student will need their own device.** This set-up will allow off-site learners to see the teacher, see the whiteboard and to engage in discussion using the chat feature. We want our *at-home students to have an at-school feel* as much as possible. Further, teachers will put strategies in place so that off-site students are engaged.

Our key hopes for the Sr. School student body:

- Create interaction between students who are off-site and on-site
- Create easy transition for off-site students opting to join the on-site program
- Create seamless transition for on-site students in the event there is illness and they need to stay home for a day or more
- Increase student accountability for their learning

Accountability is important. It is easy for teachers to hold students accountable when they are in class. For off-site learners, we are going to need assistance from our parents. Our teachers have created an Essential Agreement for Off-Site Learning. It is essential because we can't succeed without these things. It is an agreement because we all commit to living up to it.



Our Essential Agreement

1. **BE PRESENT.** We are required to take attendance. Keep your camera turned on. We want to see you; and please use your real name. Being present also means “be engaged.”
2. **ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS.** Turn off cell phones and other devices (no multitasking during class). Find a quiet place, with a designated work surface, free of distractions. Your bed is not a workspace!
3. **PARTICIPATE.** Participate and be respectful at all times. This means muting yourself while others are speaking and actively listening during class time.
4. **WEAR YOUR UNIFORM.** On school days, uniforms are required. We want this to be just like regular school for our off-site students.
5. **BE ON TIME.** Your schedule is available on Managebac. Show up at the scheduled time.

As we start this year, our plan is to continually re-evaluate our programs and make adjustments as necessary. **Off-site learning for high school students is not an easy task.** It takes hard work, self-discipline, dedication, and reliability in order to be successful. We thank our parents for partnering with us to ensure the level of accountability which will make this program successful.

Serving together,

The Leadership Team

David Michel
Head of School

Joel Slofstra
Sr. School Principal

Gerry Goertzen
Jr. School Principal