

Virden Collegiate Institute



Principal – Mark Keown
Vice-Principal – Michael Bertram
Virden, MB R0M 2C0
Telephone: 204-748-2205
Email: mkeown@flbsd.mb.ca
Fax: 204-748-3555

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Dear VCI Students, Families and Community:

I would like to begin by thanking everyone for all of your effort and hard work in the past couple of months as we battled our way through this pandemic together. Our VCI staff has been doing their very best to continue to provide your child a quality education during this remote learning environment and I am very thankful of their efforts. I am also very appreciative of everyone's patience and understanding as we have made our way to the close of this schooling year and hopefully to a pathway leading us out of this pandemic state.

In response to the Provincial announcements late last week, and the Fort La Bosse direction provided in the letter from Mr. Pitz, the following is an update on timelines and plans that Virden Collegiate will be implementing as we close out the remainder of the year.

Suspension of in class learning:

Classroom learning will continue to be suspended for the remainder of the school year, but starting June 1st VCI will be re-opening, and all teachers will be returning to school to support the closure of our year. As a result, starting June 2nd teachers may be requesting some students to schedule a time to report to school in an attempt to support them in successfully attaining their high school credits or finishing incomplete work which has been assigned during our suspension of classes. If students simply need a quiet school environment to complete their assignments, they can simply contact the office and we can arrange a time and location for that to occur.

Note: Students returning to the building will be screened at the front door, asked to sign in and sign out, and like everyone in our building will be expected follow all of the health guidelines such as hand washing, social distancing. There is not a requirement at this time for anyone to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) but if people are wanting to wear they are certainly welcome to – unfortunately we do not have a supply to provide these. All students must schedule a visit time in advance, either with their teachers or the office before they will be allowed to enter the building. We are requesting this in an effort to monitor the total number of people in our school at one time as there are Manitoba health restrictions that must be met.

VCI timelines for completion of course work:

- 1. Tuesday, June 2nd** – students will be able to return to our VCI building to receive support in completing their courses. (process described earlier)

- 2. Friday, June 5th** – this will be the last date that teachers will be assigning any new course work. (If teachers, students, parents and Principal are in agreement, some classes may continue in an effort to prepare students for the next level. Example – Gr.12 courses essential for University or College)
Note: All teachers are expected to have Maplewood markbooks as up to date as possible on this date to enable students and parents to have a clear understanding of student's marks and what is incomplete and needing to be done. If students have not completed their courses to an appropriate level at this time – some learning completion may be required. As a result, if some students have not completed all of their course to a sufficient level, VCI may restrict the students course choices for next year due to a lack of readiness.

- 3. Wednesday, June 17th** – this is the last day that assignments will be accepted for second semester classes.

- 4. Friday, June 26th** - Report cards will be emailed out on this date. Students will receive either the mark that was on their term 3 report card or their June 24th mark – whichever is higher. As well, on this report card, students will be receiving an evaluation of their efforts during the remote learning period and a comment on their level of course completion for our records.

Final Exams/Assessments:

Normally all students are required to complete a final exam or final project in all of their classes (this includes provincial exams for Gr. 12 students) that is worth 30% of their mark. ***There will be no final exams or projects of this type this year.*** Some teachers may do some year-end assessing but this mark will either be calculated in with the student's term work or will be formative (meaning not for marks – just used to reaffirm where students learning levels are at).

Locker clean-out / Returning of items

During the week of June 8th – 12th students will be expected to report to school to clean out their lockers, hand in their locks and return any items that are property of VCI. (this includes: textbooks, library books, uniforms, music, instruments or any other items) We once again will be meeting all students at the front door and monitoring their entry into our building. Please come on your assigned day below (between the hours of 8:30 – 12:00 or 1:00 – 4:00). Exceptions will be made of course for siblings who are in different grade levels making just one trip to VCI.

Grade 9 – Monday, June 8th
Grade 10 – Tuesday, June 9th

Grade 11 – Wednesday, June 10th
Grade 12 – Thursday, June 11th

Timetable for Next Year (Grade 9 – 11 students)

Your timetable for next year is just getting some final tweaks, but you will be able to access them using your student Maplewood login starting this Thursday, May 28th. Granted, I don't think anyone is totally sure that "school" will look the same when or if we return to classes in the fall but until then this is the plan for now. Please review it as a family and knowing that we did not have the chance to register you for your classes face to face like we normally do, if you need to make some timetable changes like we do every year – please email me, stop in or call me and we will work through the changes together.

Graduation 2020

At our last Grad Zoom meeting we finalized that VCI will be celebrating our Grad on Wednesday, June 24th. What it looks like is still a work in progress and that is why we need all Grads / Grad Families to visit the ***Grad 2020 Google Classroom (code: af25y2y)*** and complete the survey that is posted there. This will guide us on what our Grad ceremony will look like and what planning needs to occur before hand. As you are completing the survey please remember that we must comply with all of the Manitoba health guidelines throughout.

I hope this letter helps answer some questions that you may have and it guides us as we try to bring this challenging 2019 – 2020 school year to a close. I do appreciate everyone's support in getting to this point and we are going to get through this – together!! If you have any questions please let me know, otherwise stay safe!

Yours truly,
Mark Keown
Principal
Virden Collegiate Institute