



SENIOR SCHOOL CONTINUITY OF LEARNING PLAN

January 2022 Exam Information

Sent on January 7, 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians

Thank you for your continued patience and support while our teachers adapted their final evaluation plans to fit the current circumstances. We are now able to share with you the final evaluation policy for Semester 1, a summary of the final evaluations for all courses, the exam and extra help schedules.

Final Evaluation Policy

We have received guidance from the Ministry of Education that we may continue to have leniency regarding the use and weighting of final evaluations. Throughout the pandemic, our teachers have been creative and flexible in their design and application of evaluation methods, constantly balancing high academic standards with student wellbeing. Since we have returned to HSC@home, we have again asked teachers to limit the weighting of final evaluations as follows. If a student's final evaluation result is the same or higher than their course mark, it can count for up to 30%, but if the final evaluation result is lower, it can only count for up to 10%. This policy received positive feedback from students when it was applied last year. Please see the chart below for some illustrative examples of how this might influence your child's final grade.

A student with this mark heading into the final ...	Who scores this mark in the final ...	Would earn this mark in the course ...
90	99	93 (exam worth 30%)
90	74	88 (exam worth 10%)
80	95	85 (exam worth 30%)
80	64	78 (exam worth 10%)
70	90	76 (exam worth 30%)
70	50	68 (exam worth 10%)

Final Evaluation Summary

In the final evaluation summary, courses are listed in alphabetical order by course code and sorted by the grade of the course. A student in Grade 10 who is taking a Grade 11 course, for example, will find that course on the Grade 11 tab. A range is given for the weighting of the final evaluation in each course, depending on whether or not the final evaluation helps the student's final mark. You may view the final evaluation summary [here](#).

Exam Schedule

Some courses are choosing to have a formal, written examination for their final evaluation. Exams will take place from January 18 - January 24. Scheduling on-campus exams during the current

public health restrictions present some challenges. Even if we are able to return to campus that week as we hope and expect, we suspect that more families than usual will choose to remain learning via HSC@home and that many students will be self-isolating on any given day. We have thus decided that regardless of the public health restrictions in place for January 18 - January 24, all exams will be virtual, ensuring both their fairness and safety.

All exams will begin at 9:00 a.m. Students will enter the virtual exam room before the exam starts. They must leave their cameras on for the duration of the exam. They may be asked to unmute their microphones as well. Their teachers will be in the Zoom classroom and available to answer questions as needed. Exams for Grades 9 and 10 will be designed to take 60 minutes, but students will be given 90 minutes to provide sufficient time to review their work. Similarly, Grade 11 and 12 exams will be 90 minutes long, but two hours will be given. If a student experiences technical difficulties during the exam, they should (if possible) raise their digital hand in the Zoom room to ask for help. If this is not possible, they should take a screenshot of the difficulty and send it to itservicerequest@hsc.on.ca with the subject "exam technical difficulty."

Monday, January 24, is reserved for students with exam conflicts. If a student has an exam conflict (defined as two exams scheduled at once or as an exam that cannot be written at its regular time due to an accommodation in the student's ILP), please contact the Vice Principal of Academic Administration at jan.morrison@hsc.on.ca as soon as possible.

You may access the exam schedule and links to the virtual exam rooms here.

Academic Support

Teachers will be providing work periods to complete and get help with summative projects and study periods to review and prepare for exams. Teachers may also offer office hours. A schedule will be available in the [Senior Student myHSC group](#). In addition to this, we have two teaching assistants, Dr. Lenarcic (math, science and computer science) and Mrs. Saini (math, science and physics), and an intern from the University of Waterloo, Mr. Carvalho (math). Their schedules and Zoom links will be posted on the [SSC Resource page](#) in myHSC.

Exam Takeup and Review

In order to facilitate the transition to Semester 2, Tuesday, January 25 will be an HSC@home day in Senior School regardless of the public health restrictions in place at that time. There will still be a full day of virtual programming. After a morning wellbeing workout, students will attend grade-level meetings with the SSC Counsellors to learn about course selection, post-secondary planning and next steps. Students interested in leadership opportunities for next year (i.e., House Captain or Prefect) will attend a school life assembly with Mr. Edgar and the students currently in those roles. Finally, teachers will hold virtual office hours that day to share final evaluation results. As the day approaches, a more detailed schedule will be shared in the [Senior Student myHSC group](#) and on the myHSC calendar.

We hope that this memo has painted a clear picture of what to expect over the coming weeks. Please email either of us with questions or concerns. Thank you, and stay safe.

Taya Cicchetti

Senior School Principal

Jan Morrison

Vice Principal, Academic Administration, Grades 5-12

2022-2023 Senior School Semester Announcement

Sent on January 11, 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

The Senior School first moved to semesters for the 2020-2021 school year both for cohorting purposes and to provide students with a more manageable workload in the event that we needed to return to remote learning. In January 2021, we had to make a decision about the 2021-2022 school year so that our course selection and timetabling processes could begin. Erring on the side of caution, we kept the semestered timetable, suspecting that both cohorting and remote learning would still be features of this school year. Now, a year later, with the Omicron variant raging across the province, we are faced with the same decision again.

On a positive note, the last year provided us with the opportunity to evaluate how the shift to semesters has affected our students. We extensively surveyed students, parents, and faculty and learned that a significant majority felt that a semestered school year is better meeting their needs in these uncertain times. We also uncovered a concern that shifting back to a full-year model could jeopardize the post-secondary acceptances of our Grade 11 and 12 students, who would have to adjust to taking between six to eight courses at once in the very years that their marks matter most. We now understand that any movement towards a full-year model would need to be reintroduced gradually, so we are continuing to explore hybrid models in which students take some subjects in semesters and others for the whole year.

For all of these reasons, we are going to enter course selection season assuming that the 2022-2023 school year will continue with a semestered timetable in which students take three or four classes at once. We thank you for your support in this matter, especially the hundreds of you who took the time to complete our surveys and share your feedback (see postscript).

If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Jan Morrison at jan.morrison@hsc.on.ca or myself at taya.cicchetti@hsc.on.ca

Sincerely,

Taya Cicchetti

Senior School Principal

Jan Morrison

Vice Principal, Academic Administration