# January 2021 Newsletter

## EDHS School Hours (Grade 7 and 8)

| | |
|---|---|
| AM Learning Block | 8:50-10:50 |
| Lunch | 10:50-11:50 |
| PM Learning Block | 11:50-3:25 |
| Dismissal | 3:25 |

## EDHS School Hours (Secondary)

| | |
|---|---|
| AM Learning Block | 8:50-10:50 |
| Lunch | 10:50-11:35 |
| PM Learning Block | 11:35-1:35 |
| Study Hall | 1:35-3:25 |
| Dismissal | 3:25 |

## Important Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| January 25 | Elementary back to in class learning |
| January 25 | Secondary back to in class learning |
| January 27 | Family Literacy Day |
| January 27 | International Holocaust Remembrance Day |
| January 29 | Bell Let's Talk Day |

## Self Assessment

All students and staff will be expected to self-screen prior to attending school each day, using a self-assessment tool provided by the SMDHU.

Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit

COVID-19 Online Screening

https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/.

## Food allergies

To ensure a safe environment for all students, please do not send any peanut or nut products to school.

Read ingredients carefully and check with teachers before sending treats for any special occasions.

Please be aware that there may be different allergies in a classroom which might mean other items may not be brought in. Your classroom teacher will make you aware if this is the case.

Many schools implement 'Reduce the Risk' programs to support students with potentially life-threatening food allergies.

Your co-operation is essential and greatly appreciated.

## No Visitor Access

Following the direction from our local health authority, the SMDHU, all SCDSB schools will be closed to parents/guardian and visitors.

Parents/guardians may call the office to receive assistance.

NOTICE
PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR FACILITY SAFE
STOP
NO VISITORS WITH LIMITED EXCEPTIONS

"The mind is a terrible thing to waste."
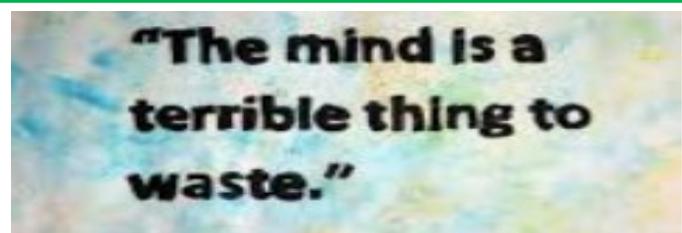
# Virtual Learning Guidelines for Students and Parents/Guardians

*To ensure a safe, respectful and positive learning experience, all SCDSB students and families must adhere to the virtual learning guidelines while participating in virtual/remote learning environments.*

## Students must:

• follow the Acceptable Use of Information and Communication Technology Policy

- participate in classroom instruction and activities;

- • follow established rules and routines (e.g. be on time, have learning materials ready, have all schoolwork and assignments completed);

• be punctual, as daily attendance will be taken in the morning as usual and all students who are   not on time will be marked as late;

• dress appropriately and respectfully and adhere to the SCDSB dress code policy;

- respect the privacy of classmates and staff;

- students are not permitted to video record or take screenshots in the classroom environment (in-class or online) without permission

- the privacy of all students must be maintained at all times

• keep personal login information private - virtual learning environments are intended only for  those individuals who have been invited to participate by the classroom teacher;

• use board-issued technology for education purposes only; and,

- find a learning space that is free from distractions. Virtual learners must also choose a learning space free of personal artifacts and attire that would not normally be shared with teachers and peers; this includes private spaces such as bedrooms and bathrooms.

- Failure to adhere to these guidelines could result in disciplinary action. Students are expected to follow the SCDSB Code of Conduct and the Information and Computing Technology – Appropriate Use Guidelines which outline the expected standards of behaviour.

## Parents/guardians must:

• advise the school office of late attendance or absence for both in-class and virtual learners;

- recognize that the teacher is the person of authority in the classroom and is responsible for establishing and maintaining class order and management;

- recognize that voicing concerns/feedback about learning content or classroom proceedings using the chat feature or on social media is inappropriate. Any comments should be addressed privately with the teacher;

- understand that video/audio recording of classroom lessons or taking pictures is strictly forbidden in order to protect the privacy of students and staff; and,

- understand that under no circumstance during synchronous live teaching will a parent/ guardian interrupt the proceeding of the classroom. As outlined in the Education Act 212(1), It is an offense for any person to willfully interrupt or disquiet the proceedings of a school class.'

# Get into coding! (elementary)

Interested in exploring coding with your child at home? There are several user-friendly programs that make coding fun, accessible and easy to discover! **Code.org** is a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools and increasing participation by young women and students from other underrepresented groups. They offer easily accessible coding projects, lessons and experiences for students to create and alter code.

Visit this website for Hour of Code tutorials (https://studio.code.org/courses) or try some of the ones we recommend below!
    Dance Party - https://studio.code.org/s/dance-2019/stage/1/puzzle/1
    Minecraft Voyage Aquatic - https://studio.code.org/s/aquatic/stage/1/puzzle/1
    Flappy Code - https://studio.code.org/flappy/1
    Classic Maze - https://studio.code.org/hoc/1

**Scratch Junior (www.scratchjr.org/) -** With the ScratchJr iPad app, young children (ages 5-7) can program their own interactive stories and games. In the process, they learn to solve problems, design projects and express themselves creatively on the computer.

**Scratch (https://scratch.mit.edu/) -** Scratch is a web-based tool where you can program your own interactive stories, games, and animations and share your creations with others in the online community. Scratch includes easy to follow tutorials, and endless project ideas to get your young coder creating and exploring the world of code.
Check out some of the great Scratch Tutorials (https://scratch.mit.edu/ideas) or try some of the ones we recommend below!
    Animate your Name - https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462492913/editor
    Make a Chase Game - https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462493493/editor
    Create a Story - https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462493360/editor

# It's all about the connection

Young people are more likely to grow up successfully when they have close connections with the important adults in their lives. Through these connections, young people discover who they are, what they are capable of and how to make a positive contribution in their community. Here are some ways to help keep your relationship with your child strong:

✦ *Show me that I matter to you.* Encourage my efforts, and believe in me

✦ *Push me to keep getting better.* Expect my best, while helping me learn from mistakes

✦ *Help me complete tasks and achieve goals.* Stand up for me when I need it

✦ *Treat me with respect and give me a say.* Take me seriously and treat me fairly

*Connect me with people and places that broaden my world.* Inspire me about my future.
Looking for more parenting support?
Speak with a public health nurse by calling 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

## Join us for some *Time Well Spent*

The SCDSB acknowledges the existence of systemic racism in society, and the importance of addressing it. We share responsibility in standing up against racism, hate and oppression of all kinds. One of the SCDSB's Strategic Priorities is Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Our focus continues to be educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism, and on working to create and maintain safe spaces within our schools and broader communities.

Our work within the pillar of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion stems from the fundamental principle that every student should have the opportunity to experience academic success and personal well-being regardless of their identity. With that in mind, the SCDSB Equity, Diversity and Inclusion department developed a video series focused on addressing the impacts of all forms of racism. Interviews with experts in the field, members of local and national community organizations, parents/guardians, staff and trustees have been recorded and shared with staff and with the public through our social media channels. To watch, visit the SCDSB YouTube channel at: www.youtube.com/SimcoeCountyDSB and select the Time Well Spent playlist. For more information about the SCDSB's commitment to equity and inclusion, please visit the equity and inclusion page of our website at: https://scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion

## New year, new goals for the entire family!

The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to start thinking about setting new goals. Bringing the whole family together for a new year goal-setting session not only provides an opportunity to discuss the importance of exercise and a healthy diet with your children – it also gives you the chance to brainstorm on working towards a shared goal.

Here are some small steps to set your family up for success in the new year:

**Play together**.
Spend time outside playing together as often as possible. Spending time outdoors improves your mood and helps you get an extra dose of vitamin D. Go for a walk, build a snow fort or go tobogganing – fun for the whole family!

**Pencil it in**. Add physical activity or play time to the calendar, with the same commitment as other important meetings. Schedule an evening family walk or a virtual family fitness class from your living room – seeing it on the calendar will help motivate your family to stay on track.

**Set goals**. Set a goal that you can achieve together as a family, like trying one new activity each week, or walking for 30 minutes a few times a week. Having a reward, like a family movie night, when you reach your goal will encourage the whole family to participate and make reaching the goal even more fun.

The YMCA offers a variety of family programs - with registered activities like open gym, family swim and the Y kids' program, the Y offers plenty of great opportunities to be active with your family in a safe environment. For more information on booking a visit to your YMCA, visit ymcasm.ca/FAQ. If you are looking for activities to do in the comfort of your home, YMCAHome.ca has a variety of free, virtual fitness classes and family-friendly workouts. Wishing you a safe and healthy 2021!
*Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka*