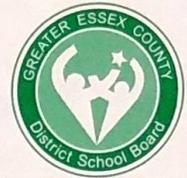




W. F. HERMAN ACADEMY - SECONDARY

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May 5, 2019

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Recently, Stephen Lecce the Minister of Education made a decision regarding the status of student marks. He decided that a student's final mark cannot be lower than what it was on March 13, 2020. As a Board, we have decided that our benchmark will be the student's mid-term report card. Mr. Lecce also stated that "If students can improve their mark over this period, let them do so. It's not a time to reduce their mark. It's really a time to see how we can strengthen their marks".

I am writing to implore students to stay connected, engage and embrace the learning. During the next few months, all students will have the opportunity to improve their marks, regardless of the status on the mid-term report card. If students were not doing well in their courses, there are still many opportunities to stay connected with teachers, complete coursework and achieve credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. If students were passing or doing very well in their courses, they should continue to learn and finish the year strong.

We recognize that students and families may conclude that since marks cannot move lower than the mid-term report card, there is no value in continuing to learn. Please consider the alternative. Should students decide to disengage from their teachers, their knowledge and understanding of the curriculum will be significantly compromised and lead to a greater gap in their learning. This decision will make it more difficult for the students to learn and achieve credits the following school year. Students who disengage will need to work and study much harder just to keep up with their peers. This will lead to added stress, frustration and anxiety for students.

One of the many strengths of our school is that we care about the academic progress and well-being of our students. While it might be easier for students to disengage at this point, my staff and I are ready and willing to continue to work diligently to ensure students are prepared to be successful in September and beyond. I hope that students will choose to continue to engage with their teachers, submit their assigned work and complete the school year as scheduled.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Stay safe.

Sincerely,

Mr. E. Novelletto
Principal