

Monday, March 30, 2020

## **Module 4 and 5 Updates**

Dear Students,

On behalf of all of our Adult Day School Credit staff, we wanted to reach out to let you know that we are thinking of our students and families, and hoping you are all keeping well. I am also writing to share a few updates related to Module 4 and Module 5.

Although we have not received any official notice or direction from the Ministry of Education regarding an extension of this school closure beyond April 5, 2020, based on comments shared by the Premier last week, we are anticipating and preparing for an extension of the school closure.

### **Next Steps**

#### **Module 4 Students**

To all of our Module 4 students, we recognize that this has been an extremely difficult and/or unfamiliar time in terms of trying to complete your courses with only a few days left, followed by exams. **After careful consideration, we have made the decision to cancel final exams for Module 4 and award students their final mark based on all work that has been completed and submitted to teachers up to and including the closure date of March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

Module 4 teachers are currently completing all of their marking and will be issuing marks to administration soon. We plan to have final report cards of Module 4 prepared for distribution shortly.

With respect to outstanding student resources and materials, details in regard to returning these items will be provided shortly on the Thomas Merton website: <https://merton.hcdsb.org/>.

#### **Module 5 Students**

I want to inform students that the start date for **Module 5 will begin on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and conclude on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** All of the courses scheduled to run for Module 5

will proceed as scheduled, however, we have been anticipating that the school closures would likely be extended, and we have been preparing for a transition to teacher-led instruction within a distance learning environment.

Teachers are in the process of preparing their course work on D2L for students to access resources and materials. When this is completed, communication will be sent to each registered student. Please note that **this will require that every Module 5 student has access to wi-fi and technology to obtain course materials and resources.** If you anticipate specific challenges in accessing curriculum in an online format, including availability of technology or wi-fi, please contact me directly.

There will be further information and instructions on how to access distance learning from your instructors shortly before the startup of Module 5.

The next stage into Module 5 will be very different from in-class instruction we have provided at the Thomas Merton Centre. This is a new and unfamiliar educational experience for all of us, and so we expect there will be a steep learning curve and some frustrations along the way.

I can assure you that although given these circumstances, our staff are committed to doing all they can to meet the needs of our learners. This transition into a distance learning environment will take some time, so I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together throughout this process.

### More Information

Please feel free to reach out to Jen Peer, our Guidance Counsellor at: [PeerJ@hcdsb.org](mailto:PeerJ@hcdsb.org), or Vince Aresta our School Vice Principal at: [ArestaV@hcdsb.org](mailto:ArestaV@hcdsb.org), or myself at: [MontanariG@hcdsb.org](mailto:MontanariG@hcdsb.org) should you have any questions or concerns.

Information and updates related to school closures and class cancellations due to COVID-19 will be shared directly by the Halton Catholic District School Board. Related information will also be posted on the Board's website at: [bit.ly/COVID-19Updates-HCDSB](https://bit.ly/COVID-19Updates-HCDSB).

The health, safety and well-being of our students and staff is our highest priority. I invite you to read the information on the webpage listed above, which outlines various links and resources available to our students and families.

As always, please continue to follow the advice and recommendations of [Halton Region Public Health](#) to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support during this period of uncertainty. As always, we continue to draw on our faith and offer prayers for the safety and well-being of all students and families, including the sick and those who are working on the frontlines to care for them.

Gino Montanari  
Principal, Thomas Merton Adult and Continuing Education