



How we report to parents/guardians will change next year.

Next year, Vanier Catholic Secondary will be changing how we communicate students' learning to parents. Instead of four term report cards, students will only receive a formal written report at the end of each course. Throughout a course, parents can expect to receive more frequent informal reports about student progress – usually by email. It is essential that all parents/guardians have a working email account on file at the school.

Why are we doing this?

Our goal is to have more meaningful communications about student learning. Students and parents need to know where the student is, what they are working toward, and the ways that learning can be supported. Final evaluations of learning must occur later in the course, after teachers have the opportunity to collect student work over time and provide a more complete profile of the learner in regards to the specific curricular learning standards.

Removing the term report cards from the middle of the semester gives teachers more flexibility to assess, assign a grade, and report when it is most appropriate, rather than when the office demands that grades be submitted. In addition, this system will allow teachers to devote more time and energy to those students who are struggling to meet expectations.

What will it look like?

For a semestered course, all parents/guardians will receive at least two emails and/or phone calls from teachers in addition to a student led conference. Parents/guardians of Grade 8 and 9 students in year-long courses will receive additional emails and also receive a formal written report midway through the year.

The main expectation we have for teachers is that students and/or parents are never surprised by a poor or declining grade at the end of a course. If a student is underperforming or their performance is declining, (i.e. Not Yet Meeting or Approaching Expectations), parents should expect that teachers will contact them directly by email or telephone with a detailed summary of performance and suggested improvement strategies.

However, if students are on track to receiving an 'Exceeding Expectations' or 'Meeting Expectations' grade at the end of the course if their current performance continues, parents may receive only a brief email stating this.

Teachers are also encouraged to send more work home for review by parents throughout the course (e.g. marked tests, projects, etc.).

What about Student-Led Conferences?

We have had excellent success with student-led conferences in the last two years and we will be placing even more importance on developing students' abilities to assess and communicate their learning, determine a plan for improving their learning, and self-advocate for the help and resources required to improve. While we designate one night each semester to facilitate these conversations at school, we will expect all students to participate in this process either at the school or at home with a parent or trusted adult.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Vanier Catholic Secondary (867) 667-5901, vcss@gov.yk.ca





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When can we expect to have something sent from the school?

Our schedule for reporting to parents in the 2018-2019 school year is as follows:

Please feel free to post it on your fridge!

Type of report	Year-long courses	Semester 1 courses	Semester 2 courses
Informal (email/phone call)	September 24-26	September 24-26	
Student Led Conference	Tuesday, October 23	Tuesday, October 23	
Informal (email/phone call)	December 10-14	December 10-14	
Formal Written Report	Monday, January 28*	Monday, January 28	
Informal (email/phone call)	February 18-21		February 18-21
Student Led Conference	Wednesday, April 3		Wednesday, April 3
Informal (email/phone call)	May 13-17		May 13-17
Formal Written Report	Thursday, June 20		Thursday, June 20

* For Year-long courses, this will be a written interim report in the format of a school report card.

How else can I get updates or information on how well my child is doing?

At some point in the second semester, we will be activating the “student/parent portal” in our student information system which will allow students and parents to go online to log in and check student grades and attendance at their convenience.

Of course, parents/guardians are always welcome to contact teachers to receive an update on their child’s performance at any time. Again, email is the best way to contact our teachers – all can be contacted at First.Last@yesnet.yk.ca using the teacher names that are printed on the student timetables.

We realize this is a significant change from how we have been reporting to parents for the last number of years. Parents who have questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the school at their convenience for more information. Any feedback on how to improve our reporting practices is most welcome and appreciated.

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