

Vanier Catholic Secondary – June 2020

Core Competencies Self-Assessment

What are the core competencies?

The Core Competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional abilities that all students need in order to engage in deep, lifelong learning. Students develop Core Competencies when they are engaged in the “doing” – the Curricular Competencies – within a learning area. As such, they are an integral part of the curriculum. While they demonstrate themselves uniquely in each area of learning, the Core Competencies are often interconnected and are foundational to all learning. Because of their value, it is important that students take time to reflect on how this work is going for them. We want students to understand their own development.

Why do students need to self-assess? How will they do it?

The end-of-year self-assessment is an opportunity for students to assess their development in the three broad Core Competencies and to share highlights of their learning journey from a strengths-based perspective.

Due to Covid-19 circumstances, teachers are not able to guide students through the self-assessment process this year. Instead, we invite parents/ guardians or other family members to simply have a conversation about how students have developed their core competencies this year. Perhaps over supper, or while driving in the car, ask students to talk about how their communication, thinking, and personal/social skills have improved this year. Below, please see a short description of each competency and a couple of prompts to start the conversation. Perhaps you can share some stories about how these skills have benefitted you over the years!

The Three Core Competencies and Discussion Prompts:



Communication -The Communication competency encompasses the knowledge, skills, processes we use when interacting with others. Through their communication, students acquire, develop and transform ideas and information, and make connections with others to share their ideas, express their individuality, further their learning, and get things done. The communication competency is fundamental to finding satisfaction, purpose and joy. **Talk about:**

- Describe a time this year when students had to engage with others to accomplish a goal.
- Communication is a two-way street. When were students forced to really listen to someone else? Did this listening change their thinking in any way?



Thinking - The Thinking competency encompasses the knowledge, skills and processes we associate with intellectual development. It is through their competency as thinkers that students take subject-specific concepts and content and transform them into a new understanding. Thinking competence includes specific thinking skills as well as habits of mind, and metacognitive awareness. There are two categories of thinking: Critical Thinking and Creative Thinking. **Talk about:**

- Was there a time this year when students were stuck and didn't know what to do? How did they get ideas to move forward?
- Tell about a time when students had to analyze a problem / situation. How did they gather information and then critique it?



Personal and Social - The Personal and Social competency is the set of abilities that relate to students' identity in the world, both as individuals and as members of their community and society. Personal and social competency encompasses what students need to thrive as individuals, to understand and care about themselves and others, and to find and achieve their purposes in the world. **Talk about:**

- Our personal and social abilities have been tested these past months due to Covid-19 circumstances. What have students learned about themselves through this situation?
- What strategies do students use to maintain their well-being?
- This past year, was there a time when students contributed to the community or cared for the environment?

Thank you for engaging in these discussions! We hope they are meaningful and increase your understanding of one another, as well as how students are understanding their own development as learners!