



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

Under the direction of the Basilian Fathers

Wellness Days, April Break, and Block One Final Assessment Days

February 24, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your understanding and feedback on our revised March Break plans for the spring of 2021 as announced last week. Any concerns raised have been accompanied by an acknowledgement that nothing looks like normal anymore and an appreciation for being responsive.

The most common questions brought to our attention involve the break and wellness days being true breaks from school. The second is a concern for the timing of final assessments following the April break. We hope to bring some clarity to these concerns with this update.

Wellness Days and April Break

These days have been strategically placed to support the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the mental health and well-being of our students and staff. We hope and plan for the breaks to be a true break. To provide students with the time to do what is most necessary to support their individual wellness needs. No schoolwork will be assigned over these days.

We all recognize the calendar implications of these changes and there are a limited number of days for work to be submitted before the end of the block, but those deadlines should be known to students well ahead of time.

There are 43 school days between March 1 and April 30. Eight of them are final assessment days for the four courses in block one, and 12 days are holidays (5 wellness, 2 Easter, 5 April break).

SMCS is committed to providing a break from the school routine during these holidays.

Final Assessment Days - April

Students return to school on April 19 following the new April break, two days before the scheduled Block One final assessments. In this pandemic year, as with last June, the value and delivery of final assessments have been altered by the Ministry of Education. Final evaluations will account for a maximum of 20% of a student's final grade. This is reduced from the 30% in a regular school year. Term work will make up 80% of the final grade. Final assessments may also be broken down into parts that may include a presentation, assignment, or the written examination.

The government announcement has certainly disrupted our best-laid plans, however, we have structured the final assessment days to support a greater emphasis on year-long learning and progress. This reduces the pressure of a one-time final assessment while maintaining the experience of performing a seated written examination in courses that require it. We recognize the need for preparatory skill development in a culminating evaluation as well as the need to be more flexible and understanding in authentic assessments in these times.

With this in mind, we would like to share the April and June final assessment schedule. The dates have been posted in Edsby and the full schedule for each day will be posted soon.

In short, students write one final assessment, in person, every other day. Over eight school days, there will be a maximum of four final assessments. Students have several classes before the next evaluation to connect with their teacher. No new material will be covered during this assessment period. The schedule looks complicated, but it maximizes student-teacher contact time and allows for a day between each final assessment.

April – Block 1 Pandemic Final Summative Assessments

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		COHORT A 21	COHORT B 22	COHORT A 23
		8:30-10:00 – P.1 eval.	8:30-10:00 – P.1 eval.	8:30-10:00 – P.2 eval.
		10:10-10:50 – P.2 class	10:10-10:50 – P.2 class	10:10-10:50 – P.1 class
		11:00-11:40 – P.4A class	11:00-11:40 – P.4A class	11:00-11:40 – P.4A class
		11:45-12:25 – P.4B class	11:45-12:25 – P.4B class	11:45-12:25 – P.4B class
		12:35-1:15 – P.3 class	12:35-1:15 – P.3 class	12:35-1:15 – P.3 class
COHORT B 26	COHORT A 27	COHORT B 28	COHORT A 29	COHORT B 30
8:30-10:00 – P.2 eval.	8:30-10:00 – P.3 eval.	8:30-10:00 – P.3 eval.	8:30-10:00 – P.4 eval.	8:30-10:00 – P.4 eval.
10:10-10:50 – P.1 class	10:10-10:50 – P.2 class	10:10-10:50 – P.2 class	10:10-10:50 – P.2 class	10:10-10:50 – P.2 class
11:00-11:40 – P.4A class	11:00-11:40 – P.4A class	11:00-11:40 – P.4A class	11:00-11:40 – P.1A class	11:00-11:40 – P.1A class
11:45-12:25 – P.4B class	11:45-12:25 – P.4B class	11:45-12:25 – P.4B class	11:45-12:25 – P.1B class	11:45-12:25 – P.1B class
12:35-1:15 – P.3 class	12:35-1:15 – P.1 class	12:35-1:15 – P.1 class	12:35-1:15 – P.3 class	12:35-1:15 – P.3 class



June – Block 2 Pandemic Final Summative Assessments

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	COHORT B 1 8:30-10:00 – P.5 eval. 10:10-10:50 – P.7 class 11:00-11:40 – P.6A class 11:45-12:25 – P.6B class 12:35-1:15 – P.8 class	COHORT A 2 8:30-10:00 – P.5 eval. 10:10-10:50 – P.7 class 11:00-11:40 – P.6A class 11:45-12:25 – P.6B class 12:35-1:15 – P.8 class	COHORT B 3 8:30-10:00 – P.7 eval. 10:10-10:50 – P.5 class 11:00-11:40 – P.6A class 11:45-12:25 – P.6B class 12:35-1:15 – P.8 class	COHORT A 4 8:30-10:00 – P.7 eval. 10:10-10:50 – P.5 class 11:00-11:40 – P.6A class 11:45-12:25 – P.6B class 12:35-1:15 – P.8 class
	COHORT B 7 8:30-10:00 – P.8 eval. 10:10-10:50 – P.7 class 11:00-11:40 – P.6A class 11:45-12:25 – P.6B class 12:35-1:15 – P.5 class	COHORT A 8 8:30-10:00 – P.8 eval. 10:10-10:50 – P.7 class 11:00-11:40 – P.6A class 11:45-12:25 – P.6B class 12:35-1:15 – P.5 class	COHORT B 9 8:30-10:00 – P.6 eval. COHORT A 1:00-2:30 – p.6 eval.	

There is no perfect way to eliminate stress during assessment periods. Some might argue that is the point, to experience the need to perform under pressure. We want students to be their best and find success in these difficult times. This schedule is designed to provide a healthy balance of time, support, authentic assessment, and the experience of final evaluations necessary in many universities. All this in a pandemic year of disrupted school day experiences.

As always, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Mr. James McKinnon
Principal