Dear Block F, Grade 8, Students and Parents,

Thank you very much for your patience and concern as staff at SDSS navigate through these unprecedented times. Administrators, teachers, and support staff – just like you all – have felt at times that they have been left in the dark with developments large and small. It is important to keep in mind that an event of this scale and significance has never happened before in our lifetimes; we are all trying to move through this the best way we know how.

To this end, I have strived to lay out a course framework for students that is beneficial, reasonable, and accessible. I have had to make many decisions regarding the course and your standing in it, and I will admit that some of the details have yet to be completely decided. What I have laid out for you in this letter is a result of much consideration.

Who is my teacher?

The University of British Columbia has postponed Teacher Candidate practicums for an indefinite period. I, Mr. Pike, will resume as your teacher for the remainder of the year.

Will I still have class?

I am in the process of putting together lessons for the class for one more unit that will last until the end of the year. This could change, but I am planning for one lesson per week, communicated through email and my website, www.droppinenglish.weebly.com. These lessons should start in a week or so. I will let you know.

The expectation will be that students, when they can, will participate in these lessons, and strive to complete forthcoming readings and assignments. My aim is to communicate with all students, in some form, at least once a week.

Will I pass English 8?

Check your report cards from Term 2. My belief is that those marks are – in most cases – the most accurate reflection of learning and ability we have achieved to date. Everyone passing my course currently will pass the course in June. **If there are students in the class who are not currently passing the course, or have an "I" for second term, we will need to initiate conversations to devise ways to get you passing.**

What if I have assignments still to submit?

I will soon make a determination to see what previous work will be accepted for assessment. This includes the assignments assigned by Ms. Twarog. In addition, I need to consider how much work we do moving forward will be considered as part of your assessment. Given that learning and assessment conditions are suboptimal at this time in the year, and in order to prevent any undue stress or anxiety, I strongly urge students to not expect their marks to change significantly, either to the plus or minus. My number one focus is on continuation of student learning.
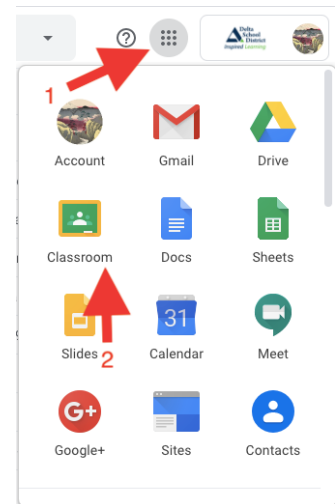
How do we continue?

I plan to keep things simple. I will publish content on my website, www.droppinenglish.weebly.com , and communicate with students through their deltalearns email account, starting next week. Students will also be invited to join the Google Classroom I set up at the beginning of the year, if they have not already done so.

It is essential that students get set up soon on this email account, if they have not already done so. The appropriate link to help you create an account can be found here:

https://sd.deltasd.bc.ca/learn-at-home/

Google Classroom

-   **Once you have your deltalearns account working, within that email account, find the access to Google Classroom (right).**

-   **Once in Google Classroom, click on the plus (+) and click on "Join Class"**

-   **Enter in my class code: 6cqd35z**

I am working under the assumption that each student will be able to receive email, download and view files (either in Word or PDF), and will be able to submit work through Google Docs or other suitable platforms. If you are not able to do this, it is important that you let me know immediately.

I hope this letter addresses most of your concerns. If there is anything I have left out, please feel free to contact me anytime. Though everything else may seem uncertain, I am confident that we can finish up the year meaningfully.

Take care of yourself, and each other,

Mr. Pike

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