



## Expectations for assignments

Dear Students and Families,

As we all know, secondary school is an exciting, challenging, and complex time for students as they develop and prepare for the next chapters of their lives. Secondary school serves to guide and prepare students with the skills they need for adulthood. These skills are often referred to as core competencies. Core competencies are the intellectual, personal, and social skills that all students need to develop for success in life beyond school. In BC curriculum (Yukon follows BC curriculum), there are three essential core competencies for learners:

- communication,
- thinking and
- personal and social.

Teachers must provide students with opportunities to grow and develop their core competencies skills throughout their schooling career. Supporting the core competency development for students includes supporting students in developing work/study habits and the responsibility to submit completed assignments on time. As adults, students will need to apply these habits and demonstrate their responsibility to meeting deadlines, being punctual, and working hard towards their goals in their careers.

Both student and teacher have a responsibility towards each other - to communicate needs and expectations, to respect each other's workloads and schedules, to support each other in a mutually respectful relationship.

### The student's responsibility in the submission of assignments is to:

- *understand what is expected and ask questions to clarify expectations*
- *ask the teacher about assignments during an absence*
- *complete assignment tasks to the best of the student's ability*
- *ask for help from the teacher when necessary, or for additional supports; and*
- *submit assignments on time.*

### The teacher's responsibility in the assigning and grading of assignments is to:

- *provide relevant, rigorous, and engaging assignments aligned with curricular programs and specific learning plans*
- *provide assignments that are appropriate for the grade, abilities and needs of students*
- *give clear, explicit instructions and provide timely and meaningful feedback*
- *communicate to students and families a consistent approach to assignments and expectations*
- *ensure that the necessary skills required to complete the assignments have been adequately taught.*

The Department of Education recommends that students be given a “reasonable amount of time” to submit their assignments during a semester. How we define a “reasonable amount of time” varies depending on students’ learning plans, needs and exceptional circumstances.

We can only extend deadlines if the student communicates their needs and reasons to the teacher and/or the student has a learning plan and it is considered an accommodation for them. In either case, the student commits to completing and submitting on an agreed upon extension date. It is not respectful nor reasonable for students to submit assignments on the last day(s) of a semester, as teachers will not have sufficient time to provide feedback or grade the assignments.

We are invested in students’ learning and success. Teachers can provide additional supports, when needed, to ensure that students can demonstrate learning to the best of their ability. In addition, when setting deadlines, teachers consider the demands secondary students face in various courses and coordinate assignments and assessments schedules, as much as possible, to minimize overload and undue stress.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the teacher or the vice-principals or principal.