



St. Elias Community School

Box 5494, Haines Junction, YT Y0B 1L0
Tel: (867) 634-2231 Fax: (867) 634-2921

December 20, 2019

We would like to thank all the staff and students for their hard work in putting on a spectacular Christmas Concert last night, and thank you to all the parents for your support. Great job everyone! You all Rock!

Thank you to our School Council for an exciting and competitive silent auction this year. We are very appreciative of the work that goes into coordinating the silent auction, and the community support for student programming.

Here are a few important dates to keep in mind for the new year at SECS.

Christmas Break:

The Christmas Break start on Dec. 23, 2019 and ends on Jan. 3, 2020. Our first day of school in the new year is Monday Jan. 6, 2020.

Gr. 8-12 Semester I Exams:

High School Semester I exams will take place the week of **January 13-17, 2020. (See attached Schedule of Exams).** The last day of Semester I is **Friday January 17, 2020.** Our Semester II classes begin on **Tuesday January 21, 2020.**

During SECS Exam days, students in Gr. 8-12 are required to attend all scheduled tutorials. All missing assignments are to be fully completed and handed in for marking by 3:15pm on Friday January 10, 2020.

Professional Development Day:

SECS staff will have a Professional Development day on Monday January 20, 2020. There are no classes that day.

High-school Interim Assessments:

Semester I Interim Assessments for students in Gr. 8-12 have been sent home this week. This is a great time to review academic progress with your youth and ways of supporting learning and success in the weeks leading up to Semester 1 final assessments.

New Cell Phone Policy:

Please see the attached letter regarding changes to the St. Elias Cell Phone Policy to come in effect in January. There will be further communication and opportunities to discuss the changes and research connected to this policy. Staff and School Council look forward to further conversations regarding the support of our students and their academic learning.



St. Elias Community School staff would like to wish everyone a safe and restful holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone in the new year!

*Ms. Mann
Our very best
to you & yours!*

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If you would like to receive our Newsletters by email, please send me a message at shawn.allen@gov.yk.ca

SECS Grade 8 to 12 Exam Schedule — January 2020

All Tutorial Sessions are mandatory.

Monday Jan. 13

9:00 a.m.

Student Self-Assessment of Core
Competencies
for Gr. 8-12

1:00 p.m.

Career Ed 8
English 9 Tutorial
Gr. 10-12 Numeracy Assessment Tutorial

Tuesday Jan. 14

9:00 a.m.

Shop 8
English 9 Tutorial
Gr. 10 Numeracy Assessment Tutorial
WISE 10 Science

1:00 p.m.

Socials 8
Drama 9
Science 10
Career Life 11/12

Wednesday Jan. 15

9:00 a.m.

French 8/9
Southern Tutchone 8/9 – Oral & Written
Math 10-12 - Mr. Eleniak
Math 10-12 – Mr. Allaway

1:00 p.m.

Career Ed 9
ADST 11/12
English 10 – Literacy Assessment Tutorial

Thursday Jan. 16

9:00 a.m.

Shop 9
English 10
AYEP 11/12

1:00 p.m.

ADST 8
English 9
Math 11-12 Numeracy Assessment

Friday Jan. 17

9:00 a.m.

Literacy Assessment 10

1:00 p.m.

Make Up Exams

**Jan. 21, 2020 –Grade 10-12 B.C. Numeracy Assessment
Jan. 22, 2020 –Grade 10 B.C. Literacy Assessment**

**Deadline to submit missed assignments for marking:
Friday Jan. 10, 2020 at 3:15pm.**

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Hello St. Elias Community!

I want to let you know about an important school policy taking place in January. St. Elias Community School will be a cell-phone free zone. Kg to Gr. 7 students should not be bringing cell phones or devices to school. For high-school students this means cell phones will remain off and in lockers during instructional time. This is a change from the school's existing policy. All teachers will have a consistently worded cell phone policy in their classrooms, supported by a progressive administrative policy to reinforce it. A copy of the new cell phone policy is attached and there will be more communication to parents when we return to school in January.

As a technology forward school, St. Elias School wants to help to teach and promote appropriate digital citizenship. Our school staff, School Council and feedback from parents overwhelmingly agree that a consistent school-wide policy to bar cell phone use during the day will help students stay more present and engaged in their learning. The intent is to support students in their academic success, removing a major temptation and distraction, and promoting face to face social interaction and connection. Teachers have repeatedly observed that a cell phone on a desk, even when in use as a research tool, still provides too tempting a distraction. When it dings or buzzes, the minds of even the best of students wander away. Studies tell us that it can take the brain up to ten minutes to reengage after responding to cell phone distraction. Phones are not merely distractions for their owners in the classroom, but cell phones can also be a source of distraction for teachers and classmates alike.

We will be providing more information to students and parents in the New Year. We will be hosting a viewing of Screenagers – a documentary that looks at the impacts of screen time for youth. Check out this link for more information: <https://www.screenagersmovie.com/> . We ask that parents please help to promote this policy by restricting phone contact with your child to lunch hours, when cell phones use will be allowed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Maggie Mann

Principal

Please see Cell Phone Policy on back...

St. Elias Community School Cell Phone Policy

St. Elias Community School and St. Elias School Council recognize the importance of communication and collaboration, and provide devices for students to be productive in the classroom. To keep the focus on academics and to reduce unnecessary distractions, the following procedures will be in place regarding cell phone and mobile device use at St. Elias Community School:

K4 – Grade 7: Students should not bring cell phones or electronics to school. If there is an instance when a cell phone is needed, the student should have the cell phone turned off and left with the classroom teacher for the day. Parents can reach students by calling the Main Office at 634-2231.

Grade 8-12:

Cell phones and all mobile devices will be placed in student lockers by 8:20 a.m.

- Cell phones and all mobile devices will be kept in a student's locker during instructional time (8:20-9:50; 10:00 – 12:05 and 1:00 – 3:15 p.m.) – not in clothing pockets or backpacks
- Cell phones and all mobile devices are not allowed to be used in classrooms, hallways, the library, gym, common areas, or restrooms during instructional times (8:20-9:50; 10:00 – 12:05 and 1:00 – 3:15 p.m.)
- Cell phones and all mobile devices can be used in the high school wing only from before 8:20; 9:50-10:00; 12:05-1:00 and 3:15 onward. **Cell Phones are to be in the lockers at 8:20; 10:00 and 1:00 p.m.**
- If a student needs to make an emergency call during the day, they are to come to the office
- Parents and guardians can leave messages for students or speak with their youth by calling the main office at 634-2231

We ask that families and students use the main office 867-634-2231 when communicating messages from home or school.

Students using phones or electronic devices during instructional time will be asked to take his/her phone to the main office, where it will be kept safely until the end of the school day. There is a charging station in a secure area in the main office where phones will be kept.

If this occurs a second time, the student will be asked to take his/her phone to the main office to be picked up by a parent/guardian at the end of the day.

If this occurs a third time, the student will be asked to take his/her phone to the main office and a meeting with administration and parents will be set up and may result in the phone / device being left in the front office daily or a personal electronics contract being created.

Students who do not follow teacher directives will be acting in defiance which could result in a disciplinary referral.

This policy will be in effect January 27, 2020 until June 5, 2020. A review of the policy will take place in May and June of 2020