



**Southern
Ontario
Collegiate**

SOC Update

School Newsletter

Educating Students from Around the Globe for Over 40 Years

Update from the Principal

February 2022



It is difficult to believe that February is here. We've all had a real taste of winter in January, with colder weather and our first two snow days of the year (when almost all schools across the province were closed due to heavy snow and cold temperatures). Hamilton saw about 40 cm of snow fall in one night. While it was beautiful, it took some time for snowplows to clear the streets and sidewalk to be shovelled. Everyone

demonstrated their surprise and delight in the unique winter weather and pulled together.

The weather isn't quite as cold as it was, but the Canada / US World Cup qualifier soccer game was played here in Hamilton on January 30 in temperatures of about -5C. Let's hope it will be warmer in Qatar for the World Cup!

Many students have started to receive offers from universities, and it is exciting to see those doors open. They are reminded to check with universities regarding onsite/remote learning opportunities for next year. Those who wish to stay in residence at university should check application deadlines.

We are nearly at mid-term. If you have questions about achievement, please contact me or our guidance counsellor. If you need updated information about the Maplewood app to follow student progress please contact catherine.mcfarland@mysoc.ca.

Mid-term Assessments – February 17, 18, 2022

Southern Ontario's mid-term assessments will take place February 17 and 18. Teachers and staff are working with students to emphasize the importance of strong preparation and planning for these assessments. Please join us to encourage students to commit the time and effort required to demonstrate their knowledge and skill. All students, remote and online, must attend and submit these assessments on the designated dates.

Skills for Life

SOC's ongoing workshops around Skills for Life continue. These workshops move beyond academics to emphasize skills and knowledge that not only enrich student experience but prepare them for the rigors of post-secondary and career endeavours. This week, Molly Mignault, SOC's guidance counsellor met with students to discuss navigating the Canadian healthcare system, health coverage and benefits as an international student, as well as Covid updates. Upcoming events include: academic honesty, preparing for university interviews and professional communication expectations.

SOC Graduate's Publication in International Journal

Many congratulations to SOC graduate (class of 2020), **Tonna Fortune Asikaogu**, who has had his work published in the National Mathematical Centre's Journal of Mathematical Sciences Education. You can find Mr. Asikaogu's work, "A Generalization of the Pythagorean Theorem and its Application in the Forming of Pythagorean Triples" in Volume 6, March 2021 of the Mathematical Sciences Education Series.

Congratulations, Tonna, on your continued success in mathematics. We look forward to further news from you.

Covid update

Effective **January 31, 2022**, the province of Ontario notes the following changes to Covid requirements:

- social gatherings of up to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors
- capacity at organized public events to 25 people indoors
- increasing or maintaining capacity limits at 50 per cent in restaurants, gyms, cinemas, museums, galleries
- indoor spectator sports, concerts and theatres at 50 per cent of the usual seating capacity or 500 people, whichever is less, with no food/drink
- proof of vaccination requirements by QR code continues to apply in existing settings (restaurants, gyms, cinemas, for example)

We look forward to continuing progress in maintaining health and safety and further re-opening of daily activities.

Southern Ontario Collegiate's Vaccine Policy

Southern Ontario Collegiate recognizes that vaccination for Covid 19 is a protective measure for individuals and the broader community in which we circulate. We are guided by requirements and recommendations of the Ministry of Education and Hamilton Public Health. In order to provide optimum safety and protection to the school community, Southern Ontario Collegiate requires ALL students and staff to be vaccinated against Covid 19. Our staff assists students throughout this process.

Updates from Immigration Canada and ArriveCan

Please note the following changes for international students travelling to Canada:

- **if you will be 17 years old or younger** when you arrive, you must follow the [checklist of pre-entry testing and quarantine requirements](#)
- **if you will be 18 years or older** when you arrive, you must [qualify as a fully vaccinated traveller to enter Canada](#).

All accompanying adults travelling with students must be fully vaccinated. If you have been vaccinated with Astra Zeneca or Johnson & Johnson, please check ArriveCan for details.

For further details, please go to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/arrivecan.html>

Remote Learning

Many of you know students who are currently studying remotely. The ability to provide remote synchronous learning to students who were waiting for their study permits to be processed and granted was developed by the Government as a response to the challenges of travel and document processing during the Covid pandemic. While it presents real opportunities for students to begin their studies while waiting for their study permits, it also carries distinct responsibilities.

What does remote learning entail?

Students who are studying remotely are required to meet the same standards and expectations as students who are studying onsite. They must:

- Attend classes daily (electronically) for the full length of the course in order to meet the Ministry of Education's requirement of 110 hours of study per course. Students participate synchronously in SOC's existing onsite classes in real time.
- Complete and submit on time all work required by teachers, including writing mid-term and final examinations.

- Respect and adhere to all academic integrity requirements.
- **Have a fully functioning computer with reliable internet, audio (speakers and a microphone) and visual capacity (camera). This is mandatory.**

Before classes begin, teachers will forward course requirements; an invitation to connect with classes by Teams, which you must accept in order for the connection to take place; then you will be sent an account name and ID for the learning platform (Canvas) as well as how to connect to the learning platform.

Students who wish to study remotely must meet all of the required conditions

It is important to understand that **remote learning is not the same as online learning**. Remote learning is synchronous; students participate in classes at the same time as students onsite and adhere to the same class and assignment schedules. Daily attendance is mandatory.

Remote learning may not be for everyone. It requires discipline, perseverance and hard work. Students must be prepared to put in the required number of class hours within the semester dates (110 hours per course) as well as study, homework and assignments. Please consider your strengths, interests and schedules carefully. For more information about remote learning, please contact Molly Mignault at molly.mignault@mysoc.ca

Taste of Africa

On Friday, January 28th we had a special event for the students, our annual Taste of Africa lunch-time feast. Students were encouraged to wear their traditional / national attire and they didn't let us down.



Lunar New Year

February 1st was the celebration of the Lunar New Year. Traditionally red shirts are worn and money/candy is given out in red paper pockets. We invited all who attend the SOC Campus to wear red to celebrate.



Thank you for your support of Southern Ontario Collegiate. If you have any questions or would like further information about our programs, please contact us:

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For additional information:

<http://www.southernontariocollegiate.ca>

<https://news.ontario.ca/en>