

## **Marguerite Gravelle - Planning for Return to School – 9 July 2020**

My questions pertain to high school only. My children are proceeding into grade 12 next school year. Since report cards have been delayed, I'm really unsure as to how they fared last semester, however I do know that the education they received was sub-par and extremely inconsistent between teachers.

Teenagers are not ready to assume a high degree of autonomy and thus adolescent learners require much more structure to their education. My concerns relate to the possible "one credit at a time" model for high school students. This structure would model closely the format of summer school. Highly concentrated learning of one subject for several weeks. It has been proven that students find summer school extremely difficult as there is much less time for questions and very little days to comprehend the concepts. Tests and assignments appear every few days as units, which should take weeks to complete, will be finished in a day or two. Due to time constraints, every single test, summative, or quiz holds a significant weighting in the final mark. These teens will burn out and there is a high probability of students dropping out. Kids who have learning difficulties will fall behind extremely fast and there would be little to no time to catch up, increasing their risk of failure, but also lower grades which might affect their ability to apply to Universities and colleges. Not to mention, say goodbye to any extra-curricular activities

It also doesn't take into account classes like gym. Can you imagine taking gym for 225 minutes at once? Or in most grade 12 students cases, a spare. Kids with spares will end up having zero school for an extended period of time. This is unacceptable! This entire option is all about checking off boxes but you forgot one major item in this consideration: the kids. This is not an option that will benefit kids. Surely if the general public can move around in a mall with masks, we can surely allow high school students the same respect by allowing them to be at school.

Based on recent articles, the Sick Kids Hospital of Toronto, and now the President of CHEO, have both come out recommending that be in school full time in the fall. Will you be weighing your decision heavily based on scientific and medical advice, instead of a politician's advice? Have you even considered full time school in the fall with safety measures? Online learning was a major fail in most instances. Why even consider it in the fall? Most teachers did not teach synchronously, and felt that curating youtube links was sufficient. Teachers are the experts in learning and its associated principles, the school system was developed upon these principles. Moving away from that proven structure will result in less than desirable outcomes. Parents have returned to work at this point and will not be at home to struggle through the lessons with their teens. I'm afraid of their future if you proceed with this hybrid, one-credit-at-a-time, option, especially for graduating students.