



A Great Start

From the Principal's Desk

Two months are gone – already! Where did the time go? It is hard to believe that a mere 60 days ago we were still frantically registering students and getting classes to setup to actually start school in August this year! We are still registering students for various high school classes and planning for the second semester has already begun!

So how has this year changed?

- We held a two day orientation session for students and parents on Aug 29/30 which was well received! This will be planned again for next year.
- We implemented a robust option course program with EDynamic Learning to increase options available for our students.
- We spearheaded the first ever Truth and Reconciliation – Orange Shirt Day on Sept 28th
- We built homerooms for all the high school classes to increase community building and soon to implement class competitions.
- We successfully began our second year with Canvas as our LMS.
- We setup all parents with observer accounts to monitor their students' progress.

Education is never static. We are always innovating and implementing to make education more relevant for our students. Stay tuned for more changes in the new year.

Mr. Dale Anger

Software and Success

- Microsoft Office is the recommended suite for all your work! A free copy is available from the school.
- PDF editors are recommended to open and edit all PDF documents. For Windows, use PDF Xchange Editor from www.tracker-software.com . For Apple computers, use PDF Element or Notability.
- Always log out of Canvas when you are done for the day - this refreshes your screen and content
- Always check into Canvas daily to see what is new
- Attend all live classes when available - this is the only way you will get the most from your class.
- Use your Canvas calendar to help you plan your days and set your deadlines.
- Follow all instructions in your Canvas courses in a linear fashion -- there is a reason why teachers have set up their courses in a particular fashion

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Mid Term Report Cards



An online school brings with it new challenges for reporting grades and progress as marks can change daily—even hourly. To produce a printed report card takes time and when it is printed, it is already outdated.

All parents were setup with observer accounts in Canvas this year, which means they can log in to see their students' marks at any time. Hence to have a printed report card is moot. We are encouraging all parents to activate their observer account on their phone or computer. The log in is the email address and the password is the cell phone number.

PDF progress reports or emails will be sent to parents if teachers have serious concerns about their progress.

Parent Teacher Interviews can be requested through each teachers' Setmore account on Nov 18 (4pm–8pm) and Nov 19 (9am–12pm). These time slots will be first come, first served and will be available for booking after Nov 15.

Parents—do you want to take a course?

This year we partnered with E-Dynamic Learning (edynamiclearning.com) to offer some great courses for our students. Everything from AgriScience to Digital Media to American Sign Language is available—and lots of students have taken advantage of this opportunity!

But why just the students? We are now opening up the entire E-Dynamic Learning Catalogue to parents/guardians as well. This winter could be long and dark—so why not learn something new?

Parents can enroll in as many courses as they want for \$250 CAD. That's right—only \$200 will open up a plethora of courses to refresh your skills or learn something new!

If you are interested—check out the catalogue on the E-dynamic website and send your request to Margaret.dart@hopechristianschool.ca; Lisa Chapman will send you an invoice and then you can begin your own coursework!

New Staff Member!

HCS welcomes Dorothy Zulinski to the high school this year as the Chemistry and Science teacher. Mrs. Zulinski lives with her husband in Edmonton. She holds a Master of Science (U of A), Bachelor of Education (Kings), and a Bachelor and Master of Theology (Regency). Her vast experience in all things Science will be welcomed at HCS!

Diploma Exams

Diploma exams WILL be held this year during the month of January—starting on January 11th. All exams will only be worth 10% of the student's mark for the January, April, June, and August writings.

Due to changes made of AB Education, HCS will be setting up writing centers in Calgary (Al-Amal Academy), Edmonton (Trinity Christian Centre), and Ponoka (Asker Church). Students writing English or Social exams at these places will have to BYOD—Bring Your Own Device.

Other schools have graciously allowed our students to write and we appreciate their accommodations. Please thank these schools when you write your diplomas!

November Break—Nov 8—12
Classes resume on Nov 15th

What Kids Need to Know About Their Working Memory

[Link to document for further reading](#)

Learning goes hand in hand with memory – but did you know you have a working memory and a long term memory?

Barbara Oakley, author of [“Learning How to Learn: How to Succeed in School Without Spending All Your Time Studying”](#) (a great book) describes working memory as an octopus sitting in our prefrontal cortex, juggling a set of balls. It can hold about four “balls” at once before they start dropping. Working memory limitations are why many students struggle at following multi-step directions. It’s not a lack of focus. Their working memory simply does not have the capacity to “keep in mind” something like a five-step process – unless they’ve practiced those steps so many times that it has become a routine that doesn’t require active thought.

Strategies for success:

Chunking – taking pieces of information and combining them into larger units that tie together – each time adding a bit more to increase capacity. This can be done by taking picture notes, using pneumonic devices, writing notes in different colours, turning information into a song.

Teaching kids to use (Mental) Places and (Physical) Spaces – How does it work? Mentally place what you want to remember in familiar physical places. For example, if you want to memorize your shopping list, you might imagine a banana on the floor, flour and oil covering the kitchen counter, a strawberry in the bathroom sink, garlic in the toilet, and onions in the bathtub. When you want to remember the list, you mentally walk through the house and picture the chaotic scene.

When kids struggle with memory – from mastering math facts to remembering the steps of a task – it’s so easy for them to feel like something is wrong with them. You’ve heard their self-talk: “I’m stupid.” “I’ll always be bad at math.” “She finished before me – that means she’s smarter than me.” When we take steps to demystify our brains’ memory systems, we empower them to find the strategies that work for their beautiful brain.

Time Management for Teens

Is your child/young adult having issues with managing their time effectively? Do you wish they could learn more strategies to help them become successful?

There is a great course available at::

<https://www.udemy.com/course/ultimate-time-management-for-teens-and-high-school-students/>

At least one family has completed the course and reported that it is great!

Learning How to Learn For Youth

Barbara Oakley’s MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) is a great course to learn different techniques to master any subject! Learn how NOT to procrastinate, how to study, why sleep is so-o-o-o-o important, and how to use the POMODORO technique for doing homework. Students can enroll in the course for FREE – they just don’t receive a certificate for completion. There is also a course for adults!

For parents/students who don’t want to take another online course – there is also a book that is superb! And it is available as an audio book for long car trips! I (Ms. D), highly recommend any book by Barbara Oakley!

Chatterhigh

Chatterhigh is upon us again!

October 25th was the start date! All students are asked to setup their account and complete a daily 10 question quiz about careers and post secondary! There is a chance to win up to \$250 cash and some neat prizes. PLUS the school receives money as well.

Last year, the school's money (and some students' money) was donated to Abi's refuge fund! We will do this again for the FALL chatterhigh! For the spring competition, we will find another worthwhile cause.

So, let's start quizzing! We are in 2nd place right now — but we need to be in FIRST!!

The contest goes until December 6th!

OPTION courses

All high school option courses are classified as “year long” courses – which means they can be on a student’s dashboard until June.

This means that students have to budget their time accordingly – a real valuable life skill – in order to complete all courses before the end of the school year.

This year, HCS is offering over 125 different options (this only accounts for 35 of the E-dynamic courses)! All of the courses have to be formatted for Canvas, and this job falls to the tech lead – Ms. Dart. In some cases, the courses have to be completely written from scratch.

If your course is not yet on your dashboard – then it is in progress and will appear eventually! Please be patient!

What About Abi?

When are Abi and his parents arriving in Canada? Hopefully before Christmas! Woo Hoo!

For those who are new to HCS – Abi Pervaiz is a refugee who lives in a UN Camp in Nepal. His family (mom and dad) had to flee Pakistan due to religious persecution. They have been on the run since 2014, first escaping to Thailand, then Korea, and now Nepal. Five key families plus our school have been working for over a year to complete the paperwork for Abi to come to Canada – and it is nearing the end but it seems like it is taking forever.

Recently, Abi was out walking when he was surrounded by two black cars with shaded windows, picked up and taken for interrogation for five hours where they questioned him about his phone records, emails, and all his contacts. Luckily, Abi kept his head together and gave them all the answers until they discovered, through Interpol, that he was a good guy and not a terrorist. This incident shook Abi to his core – in the Western world we only know about these events from television – and he desperately wants to get over here!

Please pray for Abi’s family and their safety and for the paperwork to be expedited!

Why did the boy do multiplication problems on the floor?



His teacher told him not to use tables...