



Video Conferencing during Remote Learning:

This past week, School District #61 approved the use of two video conferencing platforms for staff-to-student communication. The first platform is "Google Meet". This app exists within the G-Suite package used for the delivery of Google Classroom and other familiar Google tools. The second platform is "Zoom". Our District has taken a measured and deliberate approach in the rollout of these tools. District IT staff, along with their provincial counterparts, have conducted a thorough review of each.

While video conferencing may be a valuable tool in some contexts, it is important to note the following:

- Student participation in video conferencing is NOT a requirement.
- Staff understand that there are many factors that could restrict a student's ability, or desire, to participate in video conferencing.
- Students/families can opt-out of video conferencing at any time without consequence, and also have the right to participate without video (audio only).

It is possible that a member of the Oak Bay staff may request to video conference with your child in the coming weeks. Staff have been provided with the following parameters:

- Video conferencing should only be used if it is going to significantly support learning, with a clear purpose and benefit.
- Parents should be informed in advance of staff intent to video conference and staff scheduled sessions.
- Unless mutually agreeable to all parties, video conferencing will only take place within the bookends of a normal school day.
- Whenever possible, meet in groups. Parents are encouraged to be present for 1:1 meetings.
- Students are to be informed of expectations. These should include: procedural (ie. chat, raising hands, mute, etc), as well as behavioural. Students are expected to adhere to the school's [Code of Conduct](#)

Supporting Video Conferencing at Home:

- Watch for communication coming from staff regarding video conferencing.
- If you opt into participation, find a suitable location within your home.
 - A common/shared area of the home.
 - A neutral background is preferred. This could be a wall, a curtain, etc.
- It is best practice to assume others are aware of everything you say and do, even if you are muted.
- Try to find a light source that is above or in front (not behind) you.

Please feel free to reach out to staff directly, or school administration, should you have questions or feedback regarding the use of video conferencing.

Respectfully,
Oak Bay High Administration