

December 10, 2020

Dear Brooks School Parents and Guardians,

Our students and faculty are wrapping up a semester of learning like no other. We hope the students have thrived during these waning days of the semester preparing for and celebrating their final exhibitions of learning. Perhaps, in this remote mode of learning, you have been able to get a glimpse of some of these projects. Faculty members will be submitting final grades next week, which will be available to you alongside an advisor letter, following December 18th.

As you may recall, we surveyed community constituents earlier this fall to gather feedback on our Continuous Learning Plan. More recently, we provided space for remote students to meet with members of the Academic Task Force to address their needs in a more qualitative data-gathering exercise. With this feedback in hand, we are hoping to improve the academic experience for all students during the second semester. We will continue to evaluate the Continuous Learning Plan with a keen eye to instructional practices and hybrid technology but are prepared to share small changes to the academic schedule for the Winter Session (mid-January through early March).

The schedules used this fall received high marks from students and faculty, so fortunately, our adjustments will be minimal. Although there is uncertainty around the mode we will find ourselves in during the Winter Session, the Schedule Committee wanted to ensure that the consistency of the daily schedule will allow us to provide meaningful learning experiences that will prioritize the health and wellness of Brooks community members across a range of time zones. To this end, we have made a few changes:

- Community time moved to Tuesday from Thursday to more evenly space out community engagement opportunities.
- In order to maximize the morning time for international students to attend classes on Wednesday, adult meeting time moved to the end of the day on Thursday.
- Skills groups from Friday and Saturday were redistributed to create greater consistency in duration of the school day across a five-day schedule. This will not conflict with athletics.

The schedule changes will appear in OnBrooks. These changes are being made for the Winter Session (mid-January-March) and no final decisions on the schedule have been made for when we return from March break. If you have any questions, please feel encouraged to be in touch!

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Carabatsos
Dean of Teaching and Learning

Susanna Waters
Dean of Academic Affairs