



CP/CBSE/2019

April 29, 2019

Dear Parents,

Greetings from CBSE!

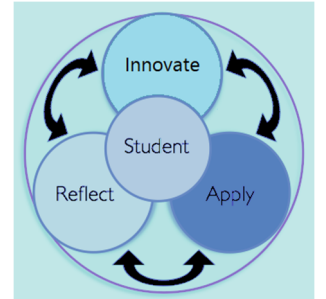
CBSE has always placed joyful learning and holistic development of students at the forefront and promoted methods and processes that enhance this objective. The National Assessment Survey (2017-18) indicates the competency of CBSE students is above the national average, yet there is scope for improvement.

In the last academic session, after holding several rounds of discussions on various issues with several stakeholders, including principals, teachers and subject experts, the Board took certain important decisions that are to be implemented from the current session, with the overall aim to create a school system that provides joyful, creative, exploratory and vibrant school experience and environment for its learners.

As parents of students studying in schools affiliated to the Board, you are an important stakeholder. Therefore, as the new academic session begins, the Board's decisions should be known to you. Here is a list of the major decisions that are being conveyed to you in the hope that you will like to monitor the progress of your child in each of these areas:

1. **Learning outcomes** have been defined at the elementary stage of education itself (for classes 1 to 8). There is a well-defined set of competencies that NCERT has come out with and it is available at www.ncert.nic.in/departments/nie/dee/publication/print_material.html. As parents you must keep yourself informed of the competencies that your child is supposed to acquire in each grade, in each subject. This will help you follow up on your child's progress on a daily basis and also know if the classroom transactions are focusing on these competencies and the school is making efforts for your child. It is expected that Parents, schools and managing committees should also play a collaborative role in ensuring quality education (Please also see [circular no. Acad-11/2019 dated 6.3.19](#)).

2. **Experiential Learning is the theme for the new academic year 2019-20**. In simple terms experiential learning is the process of "learning by doing" and is a crucial input for making learning joyful. With the aim of focusing the academic energies on developing the child's innate ability of learning to learn, the Board will undertake extensive training of Principals in this form of classroom transaction and pedagogy, who in turn are expected to ensure that all teachers in their schools adopt it. Do familiarize yourself with this methodology at the PTMs or through discussions with your child, and give feedback to the school.



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3. As part of the Boards experiential pedagogy **every school shall compulsorily reserve a minimum of two periods per week, per class, for Art Education from classes I-X**. Art shall also be integrated with education, by using it as a tool for experiential learning. This has been done to enhance children's own ability to construct knowledge, and explore novel ways of learning. It is a clear departure from mechanical retrieval or so-called rote learning. Board recommends all forms of Art (visual and/or performing) in the form of education as well as integration. The Board has even incorporated culinary art for the students of classes VI to VIII (including lessons on cooking) while making art integration a cross-cutting theme across all disciplines. ([Circular no. Acad-12/2019 dated 8.3.19](#)). It is an acknowledged fact that all disciplines being pursued by students at all stages require creative thinking and problem-solving abilities. Art education is one of the recognized methods of helping the child apply art-based enquiry, investigation and exploration, critical thinking and creativity for a deeper understanding of the concepts/topics in any subject at hand. The skill requirements of 21st century skills exactly match the skills that a child acquires through art education. Therefore, do encourage your children to take up various forms of art at all levels, as maybe offered by the school.

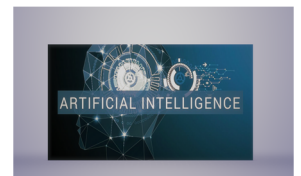
4. To give impetus to sports and physical Education, the Board has made it **compulsory for all schools to ensure one period of sports per day, for classes 1 to 12**, from the academic session 2019-20. ([Circular no. Acad-10/2018 dated 21.3.18](#) and [circular. no. Acad-16/2019 dated 9.3.19](#)). There is a growing body of research that directly links a child's participation in sports and physical activities to her achievements in academics. There is evidence that physical activity leads to long lasting changes in brain wiring, leading to improvements in memory, concentration span, and numeracy and literacy skills. The alleviation of anxiety and depression through sports is a well-known aspect. Similarly, worldwide research has proven that the practice of Yoga reduces cortisol levels, thereby raising the immunity of the body; it also leads to better cardio and respiratory health, aside from maintaining a balanced metabolism. It would be in the interest of your child's mental and physical growth if you encourage her to regularly participate in physical activities in school and outside school. In case the school has not made provisions for daily one period of sports/games/yoga activities, do take up the matter with the school and ensure that your child benefits from this crucial input for her overall progress.

5. The Board has mandated only one subject amongst five in class 12, that is, language, which may be either English or Hindi. For the rest of the four subjects, the child is free **to choose any combination of subjects, provided it is available at his/her school**. It is clarified that the Board does not have any system of “streams” of study. Streams are made by schools on the basis of the subjects being taught there. Therefore, while choosing the combinations, do guide your child keeping aptitude, interest, inclination and future studies in mind.

6. **The compendium of courses after +2**, is the first of its kind effort of the Board to facilitate students and parents while scouting for right choices in traditional, popular and new age courses. The information is available on CBSE website www.cbse.nic.in. If your child has just completed class X, this would be the right time for you and your child to go through this compendium to help the child decide the combination of subjects that she would like to take up at senior secondary level.



7. The future belongs to the generation that is ready with future skills. The **introduction of Artificial Intelligence, Early Childhood Care Education and Yoga as skill subjects** is one of the novel concepts brought into the classrooms by CBSE. The skill subjects may be offered as optional 6th subject at Class IX and as compulsory elective in class XI, from the Session 2019-2020, onwards. These courses offer an alternative to students for building their capabilities in job oriented areas. The skill sets for these courses have been aligned with job roles as stipulated in NSQF, which will enable the students to excel and emerge successful in real life. These courses are offered in collaboration with professional organizations and joint certificates are issued, which enhance the job prospects of the students. To enhance the multidisciplinary approach in teaching learning and also to sensitize the new generation, schools may start AI “Inspire module” of 12 hours at Class VIII itself. The Board will provide necessary support and guidance towards training and capacity building of teachers of Skill subjects from time to time. ([Circular no. 14/2019 dated 9.3.19](#)). If your child’s school is offering any of these subjects, you may like to guide your child in this regard.



8. Being a learner-centric Board, the focus of the Board is on enhancing critical thinking, problem solving, collaborative and effective communication skills of students and accordingly it has **modified assessment and evaluation patterns**.

Please go through the Boards circular in this regard (available on our website), very carefully ([Circular no. Acad-11/2019, dated 6.3.19](#)). You may need to discuss the new pattern with your child appearing for class X or XII Board examinations. Please keep in touch with the Board's website and the school to know when the sample question papers based on the new pattern are made available. Do help your child get familiar with this new pattern.

9. Almost all academic subjects already had 20 marks earmarked for school-based assessment in classes 10 and 12, except Mathematics, languages, political science and legal studies in class 12. These subjects too have been assigned **20 marks for the purpose of internal assessment** in class XII from the academic year 2019-20. **School based assessments have assumed greater significance for the Board exams from now on.** For example, vide Board's [circular no. Acad-11/2019 dated 6.3.19](#), mentioned at serial number 8 above, the Board has laid down the structure of school-based assessment for class X to include multiple assessment strategies - including quizzes/concept maps/exit cards, portfolio preparation, project work in social science for subject enrichment, etc. Please ensure that your child attends classes regularly and is able to do well in school-based assessment too, before appearing in the Board examination, as it is mandatory to pass in school-based assessment and Board exams to be declared as pass.
10. CBSE has taken a path breaking decision in having **two levels of examinations in Mathematics in secondary classes for the academic session ending March, 2020 onwards, for class X Board exams** and related FAQs at http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Circulars/2019/03_Circular_2019.pdf and http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Circulars/2019/03_CircularFAQ_2019.pdf. The students can opt for either Maths Standard (present level of examination) or Maths Basic (easier level of examination). While the Classroom teaching and internal assessment for both the levels of examinations will be the same, it is at the time for registering for the Board's exams, that the child can choose any one of the levels. Parent's guidance will be crucial at this stage.
11. The Board has advanced the dates for registering students for classes 9 and 11, and for registering candidates for Board exams in 2020 for classes 10 and 12. As a parent it is crucial that you guide your child in this exercise by carefully going through the related guidelines. **You must also ensure that all particulars with regard to your child that are filled up online are correct.** You will get an opportunity to check this when the school will ask for your signature on the print out of the filled online form of your child. Your alertness at this stage will go a long way in ensuring smooth sailing for your child.

12. **Exemptions/concessions to be extended to Persons with Benchmark Disabilities during the Board exams** of class X and XII have been specified in circular no. CBSE/COORD/112233/2019 dated 12th April, 2019. (<http://cbse.nic.in/newsite/attach/CWSN%20April%202019.pdf>). Please go through this circular in detail so that you can take benefit of the facilitations for your child, during Board exams, if required.
13. The Board has recently formed **clusters of five schools called as the “Hubs of Learning”** for the purpose of promoting sharing and exchange of ideas, resources (wherever possible), teacher training modules, etc. These hubs are also expected to learn from each other’s innovative practices. The Board believes that by pooling expertise and sharing resources, all schools under the ambit of CBSE will be future ready (please see [circular no. Aff-12 dated 9.3 19](#)). You may like to find out from your child’s school about the other schools in your vicinity that are in the same Hub of Learning; you could then interact with parents from such schools and know more about the innovative practices of these schools which you may like to present in PTMs as feedback to your child’s school.
14. The Board constantly endeavours to improve delivery systems and uses new, appropriate and user-friendly technology. To ensure wider dissemination of its policies, **a Podcast for Parents, Students and Public - ‘CBSE-Shiksha Vani’ - has been launched**. This can be downloaded on Android Play Store. This podcast provides interesting information about the Board’s activities and directions/guidelines from time to time, along with new tools and new ideas for education, for all stakeholders, including parents. You may like to keep in touch with it, as the Board shall also be disseminating important instructions on it related to parents and students, particularly related to the curriculum and examinations.

The links for the circulars mentioned above are provided for your ease of downloading. We earnestly hope that sharing this information with you will not only build a partnership for quality learning, but will also help your children get vital guidance from your side to help them achieve all their growing and learning goals.

Team CBSE wishes you all the Best!


(Anita Karwal)