



## COMPASSVALE SECONDARY SCHOOL 康柏中学

51 Compassvale Crescent Singapore 545083

Tel: 6881 5047 Fax: 6881 5998

Email: [CVSS@moe.edu.sg](mailto:CVSS@moe.edu.sg)

Website: <http://www.compassvalesec.moe.edu.sg/>

School Motto: *Realising the Star Within*

16 Apr 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

### Principal's Message on School Website

**Further to my termly communications to all parents dated 6 Apr 2021, I would like to share with you my recently uploaded message for our school website appended below for your information:**

2020 has been a difficult year for all schools in Singapore as we grappled with the Covid-19 pandemic and had to react to the evolving situation constantly. We had to implement various operational measures and adjust our school programmes in relation to safety and well-being of all students and staff, school closure and Full Home-based Learning during circuit breaker, back to school transition plan for graduating students, support plan for high-needs students, and the gradual return to school for different levels. The focus was on ensuring effective learning and curriculum continuity as well as working with and gaining the trust of parents to overcome the various challenges. I am proud that our staff and students had risen to the challenges and adapted to the situation very well. Instructional programmes went on smoothly with new ways of teaching and learning despite the steep learning curves for teachers and students. Our teachers had also strived to continue with providing a holistic education to all students as far as possible through new ways of organising school programmes and activities, and our students had responded well with appreciation and gratitude. All our CCAs had also managed to offer e-CCA to their students in some form while physical activities were suspended, even though it is not mandated by MOE.

In addition, Covid-19 has disrupted many of our key school events/programmes in 2020, including special programmes/new initiatives planned for the year. These include 20<sup>th</sup> school anniversary celebrations, NDP combined school choir performance, MOE's One School One Country programme under ASEAN World Skills competition, MOE's pilot project on performing arts based learning experiences for lower secondary music curriculum, hosting of AST Outstanding Educator in Residence Programme etc. However, although there were many lost opportunities of learning for students and staff, there were also many lessons and teachable moments for all. These include personal and social responsibilities for the common good, graciousness and empathy for the vulnerable, appreciation and gratitude for health care and frontline workers, resilience and adaptability to the new normal, respect for planet earth and reckoning of humanity, trust and unity in overcoming the pandemic together etc.

Moving forward in 2021, while we continue to be vigilant against Covid-19 and observe safe management measures, our focus this year has been implementation of the various new MOE initiatives. These include refreshed Character & Citizenship Education (CCE) 2021 curriculum starting with lower secondary from Term 1, Blended Learning (BL) and Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP) from Term 3, and preparation for the roll out of Full Subject-Based Banding (FSBB) by 2023. CCE2021 will equip students with stronger sense of values, resilience and skills with greater emphasis on mental health, contemporary issues and peer support. BL and PDLP will accelerate learning through digital tools and prepare students to thrive in a digital and technology-driven future. FSBB customises learning to students' subject-specific strengths and interests and will reduce stigmatisation associated with stream labelling, increase porosity in post-secondary education pathways and cultivate a growth mindset in students.

Besides these new MOE initiatives, we will continue with our best efforts to provide a quality education and school experience for all our students. We will forge ahead to realise our school vision of developing our students to be 'World Ready Youth' (and future ready for a constantly changing world) through a forward looking balanced and holistic education, a vibrant learning community with a caring culture, close collaborations with our parents, stakeholders and partners, and continuous staff professional development.

To encourage our students to learn for life, we guide all students to set life goals and work towards their aspirational targets through a personalised education and career plan. To instil joy of learning, we aim to provide at least one enrichment programme for each level/stream by each academic department. To achieve value-added academic results, we have our PRIME (PRoaction, Intervention, Motivation & Empowerment) framework for academic excellence. To nurture self-confident students, we adopt positive education/growth mindset in student development. To develop self-directed learners, we leverage on ICT-enabled learning and flipped learning. To produce problem identifiers and solvers, we develop collaborative problem-solving/critical & inventive thinking skills through curricular programmes and opportunities for at least 30% of each cohort to participate in external competitions. To develop effective communicators, we have English Language and Mother Tongue Oracy Skills Programme for all students.

To develop students of good character as well as active and global citizens, we place a strong emphasis on Character & Citizenship Education/National Education, Values-in-Action and Learning for Life Programme on Community & Youth Leadership. To develop our students holistically, we anchor on our signature STAR Programme for all levels – Seek out your strength, Take responsibility, Adopt an enterprising spirit and Ready for the world. To provide holistic care for all our students, we have a full complement of the Year Heads team and pastoral care staff and Gear-Up Programme/After School Centre for high needs students.

To establish a niche of excellence in teaching and learning, we continue to develop our strengths in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), infusing design thinking, maker space and computational thinking in relevant subjects. Key programmes include our Aeronautics Applied Learning Programme, inter-disciplinary Project Work with a scientific focus on environment education/sustainable living, Science Outdoor Learning Experience (SOLE), 'O' level Electronics, ICT Digital Maker Programme, Fun with Math Programme, and participation in STEM competitions etc.

Our Staff Professional Development Committee, led by our School Staff Developer and supported by a Lead Teacher and seven Senior Teachers for various subject disciplines, promotes a strong professional learning and innovative culture among all teachers and our teachers regularly share their expertise at various platforms beyond the school such as MOE Teachers Conference & ExCEL Fest and AST Teacher-Led Workshops. We have consistently achieved MOE Innergy Awards for innovations in teaching and learning. Our teachers have also won several national recognition in the past few years such as finalists in Outstanding Youth in Education Awards, NIE Caring Teacher Award (national level), Association of AST Awards and appointments to the Teachers Council chaired by Director-General of Education.

At the start of this year, we have crafted the “Expectations of a CVSS Student” to spell out more explicitly what we expect of a CVSS student, viz.

- Be proud of the school - Knows the school identity and history, and upholds the school reputation and image
- Preserves and promotes the school culture and ethos - Upholds school values and exemplifies the values in thoughts, behaviour and actions at all times
- Being and becoming a North Star - Abides by the North Star's Pledge and commits to living out the pledge every day
- Takes ownership of one's holistic development and well-being - Takes part actively in school life to co-create a vibrant learning community
- Be a respectful, respectable and responsible member of the school community - Observes school rules and civic-mindedness. Be a peer supporter and community builder
- Leads a meaningful and purposeful life - Serves the school and the larger community with humility and gratitude

Trenyce Teo (Sec 4N2/2019) is a fine example of the kind of students we aim to nurture. Although from the Normal (Academic) course, Trenyce has performed well academically and shown exemplary character and leadership in her role as the President of the Student Council. She received the 2020 Lee Kuan Yew Award for All-Round Excellence (Secondary) upon completion of her 'N' levels, which is a pinnacle MOE national award that recognises well-rounded students who have excelled in both academic and non-academic spheres and exemplified the MOE Desired Outcomes of Education. Trenyce was among only 12 recipients of the award from all secondary schools and our second recipient in the history of our school. We are very proud of her achievements.

Our students recite the North Star's Pledge every Monday during flag-raising ceremony: *“I will learn and find my compass; I will excel and strive to go far; I will grow and live a life of purpose; I will shine as I am a North Star!”* Being and becoming a North Star is the daily mission for all our students. Our teachers are committed to bringing out the best in every student, and help our students find their own compasses in life and achieve success in their own ways. We will continue to establish our culture and ethos of “ABCD - *Achieve our best; Believe in ourselves; Care for one another and Diversity in harmony*”, with our shared school values of “*G<sup>2</sup> R<sup>3</sup> I T – Graciousness, Gratitude, Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity and Teamwork*”.

With optimism, we look forward to a good year ahead and embrace all the challenges with confidence, steadfastness and fortitude. An optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty but a pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity. There is a “North Star” in each of us.

**Thank you for your continual support for the school and we look forward to a close partnership with all parents in the months ahead.**



**Chia Chor Yann**  
Principal