



January 6, 2021

Dear parents:

**Re: 2020-2021 COMPASS Study
School-Wide participation**

Beginning February 3, 2021, our school will once again be participating in the COMPASS Survey. Alpha students participated in this survey last year, and the survey will be repeated once more next year, thus following the same students over a three year period. Researchers from the University of British Columbia will ask students to complete a 35-minute questionnaire about healthy eating, physical activity, sedentary behaviour, smoking, alcohol and drug-use, mental health and bullying.

While this survey is usually conducted in class, it will be conducted online this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also include some questions about how youth are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey is confidential and the name of your child(ren) will not be linked with their survey responses. The survey data will be stored on secure servers at the University of Waterloo for a minimum of 7 years and only research staff will have access to them. While your child(ren) will not benefit directly by participating, survey responses will help researchers gather details about youth health, and this information will be shared with our school to help improve school policies and practices related to health, which can benefit many students. Both the school district and our school have given approval to conduct the study. There are no known or anticipated risks to participation in this survey. The survey responses will help researchers gather details about youth health, and this information will be shared with our school to help improve school policies and practices related to health.

On February 3, students in grades 9 to 12 will be emailed a link and asked to take part in the online survey. Some of your child(ren)'s teachers may also ask students to complete the survey during class time. Students are free to withdraw from the survey at any time, without penalty. The emailed link will remain active for two weeks.

If you do not wish for your child to participate, please contact the COMPASS Research Coordinator, Kelly Wunderlich, at kelly.wunderlich@ubc.ca or by phone at 604-822-4940 by Tuesday, February 2, 2021. Consent will be assumed unless you notify us otherwise. If you choose to email or phone Kelly Wunderlich, please include the following information in your message:

- your child's name
- your child's grade
- the name of your child's school

To view a copy of the survey questions or for more information about the COMPASS project, please visit www.compass.uwaterloo.ca or contact the COMPASS Research Coordinator, Kelly Wunderlich, at kelly.wunderlich@ubc.ca

This project has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the University of British Columbia Office of Research Ethics (ID#H17-00167). If you have any concerns of complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or experiences while participating in this study, please contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail RSIL@ors.ubc.ca or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

Thank you for your support.

Yours truly,

Mimi K. Lim and Ben Paré
Vice-Principals