



11th February, 2020

Dear children,

I have a colleague who recounts the story of his lawyer daughter with much pride today. A few years back his daughter was taking the board exams. Like many other parents these days, he had several sleepless nights and stress-torn days, for he would sit with her and make her revise. When her results came out, my colleague was disappointed, because according to him she had performed averagely. When his daughter showed up bright-eyed at his office later that day with her report card, and saw her father's crestfallen face, here is what she had to say: "Don't feel bad Papa. You did your best"! I can't but help appreciate the gumption and spirit of this rare kid, for it reflects a true understanding of how board exams do not and cannot rule your life!

Schooling is not only about board exams. Now that I look back, I often wonder what I really took home from my school studies. I remember the picnics, the yearly fairs, sports and annual days, the friends and the fun, the sharing and the caring, the laughter and the tears. But in studies, I remember vague things, like in History there were loads of dates which I had memorized then, but really cannot recall today. I would time and again tell my friends, "Do anything in life, but refrain from creating history. Kids of the next generation will never forgive you". In geography, I would often curse the Americas for having a completely different set of flora and fauna as compared to Africa. Why could the world not be uniformly simple? With Mathematics, I was like an Alice in Wonderland. In Physics I understood its applications very well, but practiced inertia or "staying-at-rest-unless-force-is-applied". Chemistry for me was just trillions of different combinations of the English alphabet and the Arabic numerals. But Biology was a subject that aroused my curiosity. I loved the subject so much that just for fun I would write autobiographies of a red blood corpuscle or a mitochondrion. I found my niche there. It was in the Art room and in extra-curricular activities that I tended to outshine more than in academics. I loved the fact that I could create anything on a blank canvas with a bunch of colours at hand, or tax my mind for the Just A Minute debates or a game of dumb charades, or remember the longest dialogues while acting on stage. I think these are what made me outgoing enough to try out adventurous activities, such as a life in bureaucracy! What I don't remember however, is what questions were asked in my board exams or how did they go.

I am sharing all this with you because I want you to know that we adults do not get to where we are today by being good at every subject and every activity in our school days. Schooling is surely about exposure to various subjects, but it is much more about learning to become a life-long learner and about acquiring values and skills.

You are 21st century kids! Your future employers may not always bother too much about the marks you get in school. They will want to know instead, whether you are capable of working hard or are a creative person. Some may want to check out your critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Others may focus on good communication or collaboration skills. But all will want to know if you are honest and principled in your dealings, are gender sensitive and a good citizen, are inclusive and can be a part of a team. Known or unknown to you, I am certain that you have already imbibed



these and many more skills and values, and therefore, as far as your future is concerned, you have already passed in flying colours!

You have also scaled many peaks in your life; from crawling you learnt to walk, from gibberish you learnt to talk, you learnt to make friends, do teamwork, read, write, play, paint, dance, sing, search internet, cook, do gardening, respect your elders, imbibe your culture, and the list goes on and on. Each of these have helped hone your personality to become the incomparable gem that you are today. Exams are just one among the thousands of things in that list; really, they are not as big a deal as they are made out to be. They are just milestones in your journey towards discovering the real potential and uniqueness in you. And like every other thing in that list that you have learnt to do, it all begins with one belief: I can do it!

A creative future of your own making, bedecked with your values and competencies, awaits you just around the corner. Therefore, armed with the knowledge of all your inimitable capabilities, now go forth and attack your worries, lay them to rest, work hard and do your best.

Kiddos, you've totally got this!

Best of luck and God bless you.

**Chairperson
CBSE**



Date: 13-02-2020

Dear Parents,

I wonder if you have watched a very sensitively crafted TV commercial these days, where a father is driving his young school going daughter in his car. The daughter is visibly upset and is pulling herself apart in her mind, as she feels that her exams did not go off very well, and she would therefore not rise up to the expectations of her father. The father's instincts are strong. He gauges what she is going through, and immediately feels bad that he has not made his daughter strong enough to handle the difficulties that may arise in her life suddenly and without a hint. What a powerful message!

It is true that commercials in India often revolve around powerful social messaging. But that alone is not the point here. This example is actually very subtle and a true reflection of changing mind-sets of parents in the 21st century. We sincerely hope that you as a parent understand the need for changing with the times. School education no longer revolves around academic disciplines as the area of focus; in fact, the focus now is on developing a specific skill, that is, a love for learning. As parents, you contribute to your child's learning growth curve if you fan their curiosity from the time they are toddlers, and encourage them to develop an enquiring mind and be creative as they grow older. This then lays the foundation for developing an innovative nature and entrepreneurship, two of the most crucial 21st century skills for the children of a nation such as ours.

To lead them into become innovators and entrepreneurs, you must recognize the unique potential of your own child, rather than compare with others. Your friend's child may be good at mathematics and want to become an engineer, but your child may be good at theatre and may want to become a film-maker. The number of possible careers is unlimited, hence the limitations of our minds as parents, must not become the limitations for our children in achieving great heights.

I urge you not to achieve your own aspirations vicariously through your child. I also earnestly request you to empower your child to face life head-on. Like the parent realises in the commercial mentioned above, when we adults face so many ups and downs all through life, why should we expect our children to always be on the upward swing! Therefore, ensure that your child develops that confidence in your rock-solid support, if ever she needs to cope with adverse situations without being disheartened or disillusioned.

With your strong backing, we are sure your child will put in her best in her board exams this year, and not let stress about her future overwhelm her present. Bless your children from our side and wish them good luck for their exams. Meanwhile, here are some things that you need to ensure for your board exam-appearing child:

1. You along with your child must **check the location of exam centre at least a day prior** to the commencement of the examination. To know correct location, you can use our **Exam Center Locator App** (available for Android phones).

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2. Ensure your child goes to the examination center **wearing school uniform** only, and carrying school ID card.
3. Your child must **reach the examination centre by 9.45 am and definitely before 10.00 am. Please note that entry into the examination center is not permitted after 10.00 AM.** To ensure this, your child must leave your residence for examination center keeping in view distance, traffic, VIP Visits in the city, weather conditions, etc.
4. Take care that your child is **adequately rested** on the day of exams and is taking nutritious food throughout.
5. Check that your child is **carrying only - admit card, school Identity Card, Pen, Pencil, Eraser, Scale, Sharpener;** all these must be carried in a **transparent pouch** in which contents are visible from the outside.
6. Make doubly sure that your child is **not carrying mobile, wallet, purse, etc** to the examination center.
7. Alert your child to **follow all instructions given by invigilators, especially those regarding the method of writing Roll Number** in Answer Book.
8. Discuss with your child about the **consequences of indulging in unfair means or unethical practises during examination,** and make them pledge not to do so.
9. Explain to your child and make them commit to **not indulge in spreading rumors and not believing in fake videos and messages** uploaded on social media.
10. Make your child aware of the constant need to **maintain discipline in the examination centre**
11. **If your child comes under Benchmark Disabilities,** then be aware that the Board has made provisions for your child as per circular number No. CBSE/COORD/112233/2019 dated 12th April, 2019
12. **If your child is a Diabetic,** then be aware that the Board has made provisions for your child as per circular number CBSE/Coord/ASC/112567/2046 dated 21.02.2017

The most important messaging and work that can be done on a child, is within the walls of your own home. That child of yours is watching you and wants to be just like you. Here is wishing you all the best for treading softly, lovingly, carefully, patiently, encouragingly, ethically with your child and for always being the person that you want your child to be!

Chairperson
CBSE