



## Distance Learning Information for Parents

Black Gold School Division staff are committed to ensuring that your child has the skills they need to succeed. The Government of Alberta announced in-person classes will resume in September. However, if you chose distance learning for your child(ren), we are here to ensure students continue receiving a high-quality education.

### ***What You Need to Know***

Staffing will be completed by August 28 and we will then begin to create class lists. Classes will include students from multiple schools in Black Gold. Your child's teacher will send you a welcome email by September 3, 2020.

Students will be part of a distance learning class with a distance learning teacher assigned to them. This learning format will include regular live distance learning teacher instruction as well as directed activities and assignments that students will complete independently.

**Live classes** are scheduled daily and some student learning will happen at a specific time of the day where ***students and the teacher interact with each other live***. It will be similar to in-class instruction but will use a digital platform such as Google Meet.

**Student work time** will be when students are working independently but the teacher will still be available to answer questions and provide feedback.

**Independent work time** will consist of activities assigned by the teacher that students complete independently throughout the day, in addition to teacher instruction. This may include watching videos, completing assignments (print or online), or responding to questions. Students are still encouraged to email their teacher(s) when they have questions regarding these learning activities.

Your child's distance learning teacher may not be a staff member at the school where your child is enrolled. Students in a distance learning class will be from more than one Division school, although they will remain enrolled in the school where they registered for 2020–2021. Students/families will continue to receive information from their school.

Distance learning instruction in K - 12 will cover all the required areas of the provincial curriculum in the courses that we provide.

### ***What Supplies do Students Need?***

***Each student enrolled in distance learning will need their own device (Chromebook, laptop, computer, etc.) to engage in distance learning with their teacher and other students.***

Individual teachers will send out supply lists needed until the end of January during the first week of school.

To be prepared for classes in the **first week** of school, only the following supplies are needed:

<b>K - Grade 3</b>	<b>Grade 4 - Grade 6</b>	<b>Grades 7 - 12</b>
Device (Chromebook, laptop, or computer)	Device (Chromebook, laptop, or computer)	Device (Chromebook, laptop, or computer)
Paper, pencil, eraser	Paper, pen, pencil, eraser	One binder
scissors, glue stick	scissors, glue stick	Looseleaf Paper
crayons	pencil crayons	Pens, pencils

## ***What is Distance Learning?***

In distance learning, students engage with their teachers in a structured learning environment. Students learn course content utilizing both print and online materials, but that information is just part of their distance learning experience. A vital part of the learning process is when students also build relationships with their classmates and teachers. This kind of connection is important during the COVID-19 crisis, as we need to take extra care of our mental health and well-being.

### ***Distance Learning IS:***

- Student-centred, flexible and engaging
- Supported by a parent/guardian or caregiver
- Taught by a Black Gold certificated teacher
- Organized to teach Alberta's approved curriculum

### ***Distance Learning is NOT***

- Easier or less work
- Correspondence booklets
- Taught by a parent/guardian or caregiver
- Home education

Alberta students have been participating in distance learning for decades, and Black Gold has had various programs that incorporate distance learning.

## ***What Can Families Expect?***

The 2020-2021 school year will be divided into two semesters. Students who choose to participate in a half year of distance learning will take part in live video classes (interacting online with their classmates and teacher) as well as daily learning activities and additional assignments that they will complete independently. The length and frequency of these activities will depend on what grade the student is in. Students need to be available to connect with their teacher every day and an attendance record (of daily connections) will be kept. They will also be expected to complete independent work time activities during times they are not engaged with the teacher.

To support student learning:

- Distance learning courses will be delivered using Google Classroom, Google Meet, Moodle and other secure Division applications.
- Teachers will provide engaging, curriculum-based lessons that require students to actively participate.
- Teachers will assess assignments and progress to support students and determine a final grade.

- Teaching will follow provincial learning outcomes - statements about knowledge or skills that Alberta Education requires us to teach.
- Teachers across the Division are following a common schedule of learning outcomes over each half of the school year. This will support families who decide to move between distance learning and in-school classes at the midpoint of the school year.
- Students in Kindergarten through Grades 12 will have access to individual or small group instruction - scheduled meetings between the teacher and small groups of students to check in on progress, complete assessments and provide feedback to students.
- In September, teachers will work with students to assess any potential learning gaps so they can plan to remediate these.
- Students in Grades 6 and 9 who are participating in distance learning will still take Provincial Achievement Tests. More information will be shared with families on this when it is available.
- Diploma exams are scheduled for 30-level courses at the end of each semester. Students will need to attend the exam sessions in person to obtain final grades for 30-level diploma courses. **Note:** diploma exams are administered in person and will adhere to physical distancing guidelines. Students will be required to wear a mask while taking their exams.

## ***What will Distance Learning look like?***

### Start Dates

All Distance learning classes begin on **September 8**. (Teachers will send out a welcome letter with more information by September 3). Parents/guardians and students will receive additional information regarding the activities, meeting links and other requirements for students each day.

### Kindergarten - Half Day Program Only

#### **Minimum daily requirements for student learning**

- *School hours: 8:50 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or 12:20 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.*
- **Live classes** – each class will meet with the distance learning teacher daily to meet learning requirements for Kindergarten or the student’s individualized program plan (IPP). Students will meet with the distance learning teacher for a total of at least 30 minutes each day (broken into shorter time slots).
- *Half-day program:*
  - Kindergarten students will have a staggered entry in small groups.
  - Students will have regularly scheduled meetings with their teacher(s) every day.
  - Staggered entry scheduling will be shared by September 4, 2020.
- **Independent work time** – is time not spent with their teacher, students will engage in learning activities supported by their caregivers. Teachers will provide direction around the activities.
- *Examples of activities* – watching a video, a game such as I Spy Bingo, an alphabet hunt, counting objects, building a house for a stuffed animal or drawing a self-portrait.
- Teachers will choose how to organize time for both live classes and independent work time.
- Teachers will monitor for understanding and growth to provide individual support for students.

### Grades 1 - 3

#### **Minimum daily requirements for student learning**

- *School hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*
  - *Morning break 10:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.*
  - *Lunch 12:00 noon to 12:55 p.m.*
  - *Afternoon break 2:00 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.*

- **Daily schedule** – each class will meet with the distance learning teacher daily to meet learning requirements for their grade level.
- **Live classes** – students will meet with the distance learning teacher for a total of at least 60 minutes (broken into shorter time slots) of instruction each day (an initial schedule will be shared by September 3, 2020).
- **Student work time** - scheduled time when teachers are available to answer students' questions and meet with individuals/small groups to support their learning and provide feedback and assessment.
- **Independent work time** – time not spent with the teacher; students will engage in independent work throughout the day.
- **Specialist teachers** (e.g., music, French) – may be assigned to classes of students and will work with the primary teacher to determine the timing and the best way to integrate the subject.
- Teachers will choose how to organize time for both live classes and independent work time.
- Teachers will monitor for understanding and growth to provide individual support for students.

## Grades 4 - 6

### **Minimum daily requirements for student learning**

- *School hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*
  - *Morning break 10:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.*
  - *Lunch 12:00 noon to 12:55 p.m.*
  - *Afternoon break 2:00 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.*
- **Daily schedule** – each class will meet with the distance learning teacher daily to meet learning requirements for their grade level.
- **Live classes** – students will meet with the distance learning teacher for a total of at least 75 minutes (broken into shorter time slots) of instruction each day (an initial schedule will be shared by September 3, 2020).
- **Student work time** - scheduled time when teachers are available to answer students' questions and meet with individuals/small groups to support their learning and provide feedback and assessment.
- **Independent work time** – time not spent with the teacher; students will engage in independent work throughout the day.
- **Specialist teachers** (eg. art, music) may be assigned to distance learning classes to work with the teachers to determine the timing, best way to integrate the subject and how to deliver curriculum for the specific course.
- Teachers will choose how to organize time for both live classes and independent work time.
- Teachers will monitor for understanding and growth to provide individual support for students.

## Grades 7 - 9

### **Minimum daily requirements for student learning**

- *School hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*
  - *Morning break 10:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.*
  - *Lunch 12:00 noon to 12:55 p.m.*
  - *Afternoon break 2:00 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.*
- **Daily schedule** – each class will meet with the distance learning teacher daily to meet learning requirements for their grade level.
- **Live classes** – students will meet with the distance learning teacher(s) for a total of at least 90 minutes (broken into shorter time slots) of instruction each day (a schedule will be shared by September 3, 2020).
- **Student work time** - scheduled time when teachers are available to answer students' questions and meet with individuals/small groups to support their learning and provide feedback and assessment.

- **Independent work time** – time not spent with the teacher; students will engage in independent work throughout the day.
- **Specialist teachers** (eg. French, music) will be assigned to online classes and will work with the online teachers to determine the timing, best way to integrate the subject and how to deliver curriculum for the specific course.
- Teachers will choose how to organize time for both live classes and independent work time.
- Teachers will monitor for understanding and growth to provide individual support for students.

## Grades 10 - 12

### Minimum daily requirements for student learning

- **School hours: 8:35 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.**
  - *Period 1: 8:35 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.*
  - *Period 2: 10:09 a.m. - 11:24 a.m.*
  - *Lunch: 11:24 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.*
  - *Period 3: 12:20 p.m. - 1:37 p.m.*
  - *Period 4: 1:51 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.*
- **Daily schedule** – each class will meet with their distance learning teacher(s) daily, who will determine a schedule that best meets learning outcomes.
- **Access to Instruction** - students will have access to at least 20 minutes of access to teacher instruction per course each day.
- Students will also have access to scheduled time set aside or student-led drop-in/questions.
- **Student work time** - scheduled time when teachers are available to answer students' questions and meet with individuals/small groups to support their learning and provide feedback and assessment.
- **Independent work time** – time not spent with the teacher; students will engage in independent work throughout the day.
- Teachers will choose how to organize time for both live classes and independent work time.
- Teachers will monitor for understanding and growth to provide individual support for students.

## **SAMPLE Daily Schedule for Grades 1 - 3 students**

**NOTE\*\*\***Once classes begin, students and parents/guardians will receive a schedule for their classes. *\*times and activities depend on grade levels.*

<b>Time</b>	<b>Sample Activities</b>
<b>8:45 - 9:00</b>	<b>Teacher Availability</b> The teacher is available to support student or parent questions. Students or parents/guardians.
<b>9:00 - 9:20 a.m.</b>	<b>Small group meetings (as scheduled)</b> The teacher will schedule meetings with small groups or individuals to provide feedback, assessment, time for students to complete group projects or collaborate. The teacher will monitor student understanding and growth.
<b>9:20 - 9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Prepare for Live classes session</b> Students will log on and prepare for instruction
<b>9:30 - 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Live classes session</b> Students will be present while the teacher provides the lesson; lessons will include a variety of teaching strategies (direct instruction, class discussion, grouping students, etc)

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	<b>Student work time</b> Students will work through assigned classwork. As needed, students can access the teacher for assistance/support. The teacher will continue to monitor student understanding and growth.
10:30 - 10:40 a.m.	<b>Morning break</b>
10:40 - 12:00 noon	<b>Independent work time</b> Students continue to work on their assignments independently. Teachers use this time for collaboration, planning and meetings.
12:00 noon - 12:45 p.m.	<b>LUNCH TIME</b>
12:55 - 1:10	<b>Teacher Availability</b> The teacher is available to support student or parent questions. Students or parents/guardians.
1:10 - 1:30	<b>Small group meetings (as scheduled)</b> The teacher will schedule meetings with small groups or individuals to provide feedback, assessment, time for students to complete group projects or collaborate. The teacher will monitor student understanding and growth.
1:30 - 1:40	<b>Prepare for Live classes session</b> Students will log on and prepare for instruction
1:40 - 2:00	<b>Live classes session</b> Students will be present while the teacher provides the lesson; lessons will include a variety of teaching strategies (direct instruction, class discussion, grouping students, etc)
2:00 - 2:10	<b>Afternoon break</b>
2:10 - 3:00	<b>Student work time</b> Students will work through assigned classwork. As needed, students can access the teacher for assistance/support. The teacher will continue to monitor student understanding and growth.

## SAMPLE Daily Schedule for Grades 7 - 9 students

**NOTE\*\*\***Once classes begin, students and parents/guardians will receive a schedule for their classes. *\*times and activities depend on grade levels*

Time	Sample Activities
8:45 - 9:00	<b>Teacher Availability</b> The teacher is available to support student or parent questions. Students or parents/guardians.
9:00 - 9:20 a.m.	<b>Live classes session</b> Students will be present while the teacher provides the lesson; lessons will include a variety of teaching strategies (direct instruction, class discussion, grouping students, etc)
9:20 - 10:00 a.m.	<b>Student work time</b>

	Students will work through assigned classwork. As needed, students can access the teacher for assistance/support. The teacher will continue to monitor student understanding and growth.
<b>10:00 - 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Live classes session</b> Students will be present while the teacher provides the lesson; lessons will include a variety of teaching strategies (direct instruction, class discussion, grouping students, etc)
<b>10:00 - 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Student work time</b> Students will work through assigned classwork. As needed, students can access the teacher for assistance/support. The teacher will continue to monitor student understanding and growth.
<b>10:30 - 10:40 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning break</b>
<b>10:40 - 12:00 noon</b>	<b>Student work time</b> Students will work through assigned classwork. As needed, students can access the teacher for assistance/support. The teacher will continue to monitor student understanding and growth.
<b>12:00 noon - 12:45 p.m.</b>	<b>LUNCH TIME</b>
<b>12:55 - 1:10</b>	<b>Teacher Availability</b> The teacher is available to support student or parent questions. Students or parents/guardians.
<b>1:10 - 1:30</b>	<b>Small group meetings (as scheduled)</b> The teacher will schedule meetings with small groups or individuals to provide feedback, assessment, time for students to complete group projects or collaborate. The teacher will monitor student understanding and growth.
<b>1:30 - 1:40</b>	<b>Prepare for Live classes session</b> Students will log on and prepare for instruction
<b>1:40 - 2:00</b>	<b>Live classes session</b> Students will be present while the teacher provides the lesson; lessons will include a variety of teaching strategies (direct instruction, class discussion, grouping students, etc)
<b>2:00 - 2:10</b>	<b>Afternoon break</b>
<b>2:10 - 3:00</b>	<b>Student work time</b> Students will work through assigned classwork. As needed, students can access the teacher for assistance/support. The teacher will continue to monitor student understanding and growth.

### Extra Resources for Parents

For parents or guardians who are looking to supplement their child's learning at home, there are many resources available.

- [LearnAlberta.ca](#) offers more than 4,000 digital resources aligned with Alberta's K-12 curriculum.
- [My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource](#) provides parents with information specific to each grade level.