



Distance Learning Information for Parents

Black Gold School Division staff are committed to ensuring that your child has the skills they need to succeed. While in-person classes are ongoing in our schools, for those parents/guardians who chose distance learning for your child(ren), we are here to ensure students continue receiving a high-quality education.

What You Need to Know

Students will be part of a class with students from more than one school and there will be a Black Gold teacher assigned to them. Your child's distance learning teacher may not be a staff member at the school where your child is enrolled. To support community connections, children will remain enrolled in the school where they registered for 2020–2021 and students/families will continue to receive information from their community school.

There will be regular live online classes (with teacher instruction) as well as directed activities and assignments that students will complete independently. Your child's teacher will send you a welcome email by January 29, 2021.

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 - When students are not in a live online class during the day, it is expected that they will work independently on activities assigned by the teacher. Students may also require some additional homework time to complete their assigned activities which may include watching videos, completing assignments (print or online), responding to questions, etc. Students are encouraged to email their teacher(s) when they have questions regarding these learning activities and the teacher will answer questions and provide feedback during the school day. Small group meetings between students and teachers may be scheduled for assessment and instructional support.

Parent/guardian role - Students will require parent/guardian involvement and assistance to ensure their child is attending classes, actively participating and completing assignments on time. Kindergarten to Grade 3 students will likely need support logging in to their live classes.

Distance learning instruction in K - 12 will include all the required areas of the provincial curriculum in the courses that we provide. Decisions regarding CTS and option courses available for high school students will be made once we know the number of high school students enrolled in Distance Learning and staffing is complete.

What do Students Need?

- ***Each student needs their own device (Chromebook, laptop, computer, etc.), with a camera and microphone, as well as a reliable internet connection to engage in distance learning with their teacher and other students.***
- All of the supplies that students were already using this year. If there are specific supplies needed, individual teachers will send this information out by January 29, 2021.
- A dedicated work space, free from distractions, with all their technology and school supplies available.
- Has online behavior expectations and etiquette, based on the Admirable Use Agreement.

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 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.

What is Distance Learning?

- Children require daily parent support to attend classes and submit completed work on time.
- It is taught by a Black Gold certificated teacher.
- Classes are organized to teach Alberta's approved curriculum for all subject areas
- The hours for a full day of school are:
 - Kindergarten to Grade 9 is 8:45 - 3:00
 - Grades 10 to 12 is 8:35 to 3:05
- It requires attendance at daily live classes with the teacher as well as the completion of independent work both online and pencil/paper.
- Requires some small group work supported by a teacher or EA
- Includes exams and quizzes (Grades 2 to 12)

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 has been 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.
- Attendance and student work is reported on Powerschool, parents are expected to check Powerschool weekly.
- Support is available for students with special needs in partnership with parents/guardians or caregivers.

- High school students with complex needs will remain connected to their school for programming.
- Due to the small number of high school French Immersion students, classes will be delivered live from in-school classrooms and students will make arrangements to write tests at their school.
- 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.
- 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 optional this year. The decision to write diploma exams during the 2020/21 school year resides with students and their parents. Schools will work with students to determine who will write the exams. **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 **February 1, 2021**. (Teachers will send out a welcome letter with more information by January 29). 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).
- **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, small group sessions and independent work time.

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 January 29, 2021).
- **Student work time** - When students are not in a live online class during the day, it is expected that they will work independently on activities assigned by the teacher. It is important that students contact their teacher with any questions they have throughout the school day.

- Teachers will choose how to organize time for both live classes, small group sessions and independent work time.

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 January 29, 2021).
- **Student work time** - When students are not in a live online class during the day, it is expected that they will work independently on activities assigned by the teacher. It is important that students contact their teacher with any questions they have throughout the school day.
- Teachers will choose how to organize time for both live classes, small group sessions and independent work time.

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 for a total of at least 90 minutes (broken into shorter time slots) of instruction each day (an initial schedule will be shared by January 29, 2021).
- **Student work time** - When students are not in a live online class during the day, it is expected that they will work independently on activities assigned by the teacher. It is important that students contact their teacher with any questions they have throughout the school day.
- Teachers will choose how to organize time for both live classes, small group sessions and independent work time.

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 core class will meet with their distance learning teacher(s) for a minimum of 20 min daily, who will determine a schedule that best meets learning outcomes. CTS/Options/PE/CALM teachers will share live class expectations in the first week of class
- Students will also have access to scheduled time set aside or student-led drop-in/questions.
- **Student work time** - When students are not in a live online class during the day, it is expected that they will work independently on activities assigned by the teacher. It is important that students contact their teacher with any questions they have throughout the school day.
- Teachers will choose how to organize time for both live classes, small group sessions and independent work time.

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.*

SAMPLE Daily Schedule for Grades 4 - 6 students

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

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*

SAMPLE Daily Schedule for Grades 10-12 students

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