

BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION

May 2021

At-Home Learning Guide

INFORMATION FOR
PARENTS/GUARDIANS

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At-Home Learning - Information for Parents

Premier Jason Kenney has announced **mandatory restrictions provincewide** starting May 7, 2021. **This circuit-breaker involves a temporary transition to at-home learning for all Alberta students.**

Kindergarten - Grade 12 students

- Transition to at-home-learning May 7, 2021.
- Scheduled return to in person classes is May 25, 2021

Pre-Kindergarten

- In person classes continue normally.

What You Need to Know about At-Home Learning

Black Gold School Division will continue to provide quality educational programming for all. Students in at-home learning will remain connected to their assigned teacher(s). At-home learning includes regular live online teacher instruction, as well as directed activities and assignments that students will complete independently. Additional small group and individual meetings between students and teachers provide time for assessment and education support.

Live online classes are scheduled daily and teacher instruction will include ***students and the teacher interacting with each other in real-time***. 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 school hours. Small group meetings between students and teachers may be scheduled for assessment and instructional support.

It is important that students complete all assigned work as these marks will be included in students' grades.

In consultation with parents, schools will continue to provide the required services and supports to students with complex needs. Parents should work with their teacher and school principal to discuss appropriate arrangements and scheduling. Specialized-needs school buses will continue to operate as scheduled.

Additionally, at-home learning students may contact their school to make an appointment to come into the school to pick up materials and will only be allowed in the building during their specific appointment time.

Black Gold Outreach Schools in Beaumont and Leduc will continue to operate and there are a **limited number of appointments available for high school students** to meet with their teacher. Junior high students at Black Gold Outreach Schools will move to at-home learning effective May 7, 2021.

There will be **no changes to the schedule and operation of the Black Gold Distance Learning Program.**

What Students Need for Schoolwork

- To **participate in live virtual classes**, students will **need a device with a camera, audio and an internet connection** (a smartphone is not sufficient). It is best if students have access to a **Chromebook, laptop, computer, etc.** to work on online assignments in Google Classroom and to engage with their teacher and other students. If a tablet is to be used, a keyboard will be required.
- If a family does not have a device, the school can **loan a Chromebook** to them for at-home learning.
 - Students must log into the device at the school to activate their account on the specific device.
 - Parents will be required to complete our device loan agreement and return the device, in good condition once in person classes resume.
 - If devices are returned in good condition with only reasonable wear and tear, no fee will be charged.
 - Note* *Families must have internet access to use these devices and they will only work with a BGSD student email account. BGSD cannot provide any tech support for these devices.*
- Students need the materials that they have been using in school. Please make arrangements to gather this material from your school before your child(ren) begins at-home learning.
- While the live online classes are very important, we recognize that not all families have access to the internet which is necessary to participate in these virtual live classes. This means that they will also not be able to access recorded lessons that are posted online.
- **If your family does not have access to the internet**, please contact your child(ren)'s teacher as soon as possible to discuss alternative possibilities. We cannot replicate the lessons provided in the live online classes however, regular emails (if email is available) and/or phone calls will be required to maintain the connection between students and their teachers to support student learning.

What is At-Home Learning?

Students engage with their teachers in a structured learning environment and complete course content utilizing both print and online materials, but that information is just part of their learning experience. A vital part of the learning process involves students building 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.

| <i>At-home learning IS:</i> | <i>At-home learning IS NOT:</i> |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Taught by a Black Gold teacher● Organized to teach Alberta's approved curriculum● Attendance-based virtual classes● Supported by a parent/guardian or caregiver | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Easier or less work● Correspondence booklets● Taught by a parent/guardian or caregiver● Home education |

What Can Families Expect?

To support student learning:

- At-home learning instruction will be delivered using a combination of Google Classroom, Google Meet, Moodle and other secure Division applications.
- Students will connect with their teachers daily in live classes. Note* Teachers are only available during school hours.
- Teachers will provide engaging, curriculum-based lessons that require students to actively participate.
- Teachers will assess assignments and progress to support students and determine grades.
- Teaching will follow provincial learning outcomes - statements about knowledge or skills as required by Alberta Education.
- Students may also have access to some scheduled individual or small group instruction with their teacher to check in on progress, complete assessments and get feedback from their teacher.

What will At-home Learning Look Like?

All at-home learning parents/guardians and students will receive additional information from their child(ren)'s school regarding the activities, meeting links, and other requirements for students.

Students will be required to use their Black Gold email for all school work.

Some learning materials may be in print form to reduce screen time and give students time to practice their learning. Print materials may have to be picked up from the school and dropped off

once completed. Parents/guardians and/or caregivers will be required to make appointments to pick up the print materials.

Teacher support is available online (email or video call), or by telephone. Please note that as most teachers will be working from home, it is most efficient if you contact your child's teacher by email.

Daily Self-Screening Practices

Before a parent/guardian, caregiver or student is on school property, they are required to self-screen for symptoms using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#). (*Children and students must complete pages 1 and 2 of the daily checklist. All other Albertans who are 18 and over, including school staff must complete page 3 of the daily checklist. **Grades 4 - 12 students and all adults must wear masks at all times while on BGSD school property.**

Pre-Kindergarten

All Pre-Kindergarten programs will continue to operate. Teachers and Education Assistants will be operating classes as they have been during the year.

Kindergarten

Minimum daily requirements for student learning

- Teachers will connect with students daily to check on progress (email, Google Meet, or phone).
- Teachers are available during school hours to answer questions.
- Students will engage in learning activities supported by their caregivers. Teachers will provide direction around the activities. *Examples of activities* – completing paper worksheets, 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 monitor for understanding and growth to provide individual support for students.

Grades 1 - 3

Minimum daily requirements for student learning

- Teachers will connect with students daily to check on progress (email, Google Meet, or phone).
- Teachers are available during school hours to answer questions.
- Students will engage in learning activities supported by their caregivers. Teachers will provide direction around the activities. *Examples of activities* – completing paper worksheets, 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 monitor for understanding and growth to provide individual support for students.

Grades 4 - 6

Minimum daily requirements for student learning

- **Live classes** – students will meet with their teacher in live online classes for a maximum of 75 minutes of full group instruction (each class will be a maximum of 30 minutes). Attendance will be taken.
- **Daily schedule** – it is expected that students are engaged in school work during regular school hours each day. Specific class schedules will be sent out by the school.
- **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. Small group meetings between students and teachers may be scheduled for assessment and instructional support.
- Teachers will choose how to organize time for both live online classes and independent work time.
- Teachers will monitor for understanding and growth to provide individual support for students.

Grades 7 - 9

- **Live classes** – students will meet with their teacher(s) in live online classes for a maximum of 120 minutes of full group instruction (each class will be a maximum of 30 minutes). Attendance will be taken.
- **Daily schedule** – it is expected that students are engaged in school work during regular school hours each day. Specific class schedules will be sent out by the school.
- **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. Small group meetings between students and teachers may be scheduled for assessment and instructional support.
- Teachers will choose how to organize time for both live online classes and independent work time.

- Teachers will monitor for understanding and growth to provide individual support for students.

Grades 10 - 12

- **Live classes** – students will meet with their teacher(s) for a live online class for each course every day. Attendance will be taken.
- **Daily schedule** – it is expected that students are engaged in school work during regular school hours each day. Specific class schedules will be sent out by the school.
- 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. 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. Small group meetings between students and teachers may be scheduled for assessment and instructional support.
- Teachers will choose how to organize time for both live online classes and independent work time.
- Teachers will monitor for understanding and growth to provide individual support for students.

Contacting Teachers

The government of Alberta has stated that “Working from home remains mandatory unless the employer requires the employee's physical presence to operate effectively.”

As most teachers will be working from home, it is best to contact your child’s teacher by email. Please remember that they are still teaching during the day so will not be able to provide an immediate response.

Specialized Services

All specialized services that are typically available for students while at school (e.g. speech-language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, wellness coach, mental health nurse etc.) will continue to be accessible during at-home learning, albeit in a virtual/consultative format. All of these services are coordinated for students at the school level.

Mental Health Supports

The following community-based mental health services are available for families:

Alberta’s 24-hour Mental Health Help Line: 1-877-303-2642

Kids Help Phone 24/7: 1-800-668-6868.

FCSS City of Leduc: (780) 980-7109

FCSS County of Leduc: 780-979-2385

FCSS Town of Devon: 780-987-8325

FCSS City of Beaumont: (780) 929-1006

There are also a number of sources for [Mental Health Resources & Crisis Support Lines](#).

Black Gold School Division remains steadfast in its commitment to the health and safety of students and staff in schools. We look forward to being able to welcome students back into our schools once the temporary move to at-home learning is over.