

# BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION

2020-2021

## At-Home Learning

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

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# At-Home Learning - Information for Parents

Premier Jason Kenney has announced **mandatory restrictions provincewide** starting November 30, 2020. **This circuit-breaker involves a temporary transition to at-home learning for all Alberta students.**

## Grades 7-12 students

- Transition to at-home learning Nov. 30 to Jan. 8, except during winter break (Dec. 19 - Jan. 3)
- Resume in-person classes Jan. 11
- Diploma exams are optional for the rest of the school year. Students and their families can choose whether to write a Diploma exam or receive an exemption for the January, April, June and August 2021 exams.
- **NOTE\*** *If students choose to write a Diploma exam it will count as 30% of their final grade.*

## ECS-Grade 6 students

- Continue in-person learning through Dec. 18
- Transition to at-home learning Jan. 4 to Jan. 8
- Resume in-person classes Jan. 11

## 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 for Grades 7 - 12 (Nov. 30 - Jan. 8) and Grades 4 - 6 (Jan. 4 - 8). 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. Small group meetings between students and teachers may be scheduled for assessment and instructional support.

*Unlike the emergency remote learning that occurred in the spring, at-home learning will include all the required areas of the provincial curriculum in the courses that we provide.*

At-home learning students may contact their school to make an appointment to come into the school to access the internet, get assistance from their teacher, pick up materials, work on a project, etc. Only students with a confirmed appointment will be allowed into the school and appointments will be for specific times.

Additionally, 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 the school principal to discuss appropriate arrangements and scheduling.

Black Gold Outreach Schools in Beaumont and Leduc will continue to operate and high school students can make an appointment to meet with their teacher. Junior high students at Black Gold Outreach Schools will move to at-home learning effective November 30, 2020.

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

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

## **What Students Need for Schoolwork**

- Students will **need a device with a camera, audio and an internet connection** to participate in live virtual classes. 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 family does not have a device, the school can **loan a Chromebook** to them for at-home learning. Parents will be required to complete our device loan agreement and return the device by January 15th, in good condition. 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) begin at-home learning.

- While the live online classes are very important, we recognize that not all families have access to the internet to allow them to participate in these virtual live classes which means that recorded lessons also will not be accessible to your child(ren). If this is the case for your family, please contact your child(ren)'s teacher as soon as possible so they can provide print 'packages'. 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.

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

**What Can Families Expect?**

To support student learning:

- At-home learning instruction for Grades 4 to 12 will be delivered using a combination of Google Classroom, Google Meet, Moodle and other secure Division applications as well as print materials and assignments.
- At-home learning for ECS to Grade 3 will consist of a print package that will be sent home with students by December 18th. Teachers will connect with students daily to check on progress and are available during school hours to answer questions.
- 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.

## 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.**

## Grades 7 - 12 At-Home Learning

- Transition to at-home learning Nov. 30 to Jan. 8, except during winter break (Dec. 19 - Jan. 3)
- Resume in-person classes Jan. 11
- Diploma exams are optional for the rest of the school year. Students and their families can choose whether to write a Diploma exam or receive an exemption for the January, April, June and August 2021 exams.
- **NOTE\*** *If students choose to write a Diploma exam it will count as 30% of their final grade.*

## Grades 7 - 9

- **Daily schedule** – each class will meet with their teacher daily to discuss learning requirements for their grade level.

- **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.
- **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**

- **Daily schedule** – each class will meet with their teacher(s) daily to discuss learning requirements for the course.
- **Live classes** – students will meet with their teacher(s) for one - 30 minute live online class for each course every day to a combined daily maximum of 120 minutes of full group instruction. Attendance will be taken.
- 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.

## **ECS - Grade 6 At-Home Learning**

- Continue in-person learning through Dec. 18

- At-home learning Jan. 4 to Jan. 8
- Resume in-person classes Jan. 11

## **ECS / Kindergarten**

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

- A print package will be sent home with students by December 18th.
- 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**

- A print package will be sent home with students by December 18th.
- 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**

- If requested by parents, a print package will be sent home with students by December 18th.
- **Daily schedule** – each class will meet with their teacher daily to discuss learning requirements for their grade level.
- **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.



- **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**

You can contact your child's teacher by email or phone. Please remember that they are still teaching during the day so will not be able to provide an immediate response.

***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.***