

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MESSAGING FOR PARENTS

RE: ONLINE LEARNING

2020 - 2021





WHAT PARENTS CAN EXPECT?

Online learning will be authentic instruction, with the classroom teacher instructing your child based on a regular schedule, and with ongoing feedback and individual check ins. Online learning will have daily routines and structures put in place, with scheduled start and end times, meetings with teachers and peers and break times.

Programming will include live online teaching where the students and the teacher interact with each other (i.e. synchronous teaching) as well as independent work and activities that have been posted on your child's Google or Microsoft classroom (asynchronous learning).

Your child will **continue to be registered in their community school** during online programming. Although the teacher may differ, your principal will remain the same as well as the existing supports within your community school.

If your child has **special needs**, the supports provided at the school will be provided online by the community school team within what is reasonable based on the online context. For example, if your child has an educational assistant supporting them, EA time can be scheduled together with your child online. If your child has support from a member of the school's multi-disciplinary team, time together online with your child can also be scheduled. Your child's IPP will be reviewed with you and the school team, and individualized programming will continue as best as possible. Please make a meeting with your school administration to review your IPP if you have not already done so.

QUARTER DATES AND TRANSITION

To align online learning with the regular classroom, we have **organized the year into Quarters**. This enables your child to **transition** into online learning or return to the regular classroom from online programming at various points within the year. The Quartermesters are as follows:

Quarter 1: Sept. 2 – Nov. 9

Quarter 2: Nov. 10 – Jan. 29

Quarter 3: Feb. 1 – April 20

Quarter 4: April 21 – June 25

As a reminder, you will need to contact the school to let them know if you are switching from online to the regular classroom, or vice versa, 3 weeks prior to the Quartermester break.

CURRICULUM PACING GUIDE FOR CONTINUITY

To further support the transitioning of your child from online learning to the classroom and back, **all Pre-K – Grade 9 schools will adhere to a Curriculum Pacing Guide.** The Pacing guide contains the key learner outcomes that will be addressed across the core subjects from **Pre-K – Grade 9** during each Quarter, to ensure that students receive the required curriculum as mandated by Alberta Education throughout the year. These will be posted online for parents to reference as well. PowerSchool summary reports pertaining to their grades/achievement to date will follow your child from their online programming to their regular classroom.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED?

To prepare for online learning, you will need to ensure that your child has a device that can access **Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams** so that they can take part in their learning each weekday.



WHO WILL BE MY CHILD'S TEACHER?

Your community school may have a teacher from within the school provide the online learning, or if this is not possible, cohorts will be established from across the Division. Whether or not your online teacher resides in your child's school, you will remain registered in your community school and can continue to communicate with your child's principal if you have questions and concerns. You will also be able to communicate with the online teacher as needed, similar to when your child was in their regular classroom.

Your child's teacher is the first point of contact for questions and/or challenges that you may have. (Your child's school principal is also available for support). Your child's online class may be composed of children from their classroom, or it may be children attending online from various schools as a class. Where possible, we will have students remaining in the same class together.

WHAT WILL INSTRUCTION LOOK LIKE?

We believe that great teaching is great teaching regardless of the setting. Just as lessons in a brick and mortar school are designed with an instructional framework, online learning instruction will include elements of Demonstration, Collaboration, Practice and Coaching that are based on individual student needs. Just as teachers do in the classroom, feedback will be provided throughout on platforms such as Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams and PowerSchool.

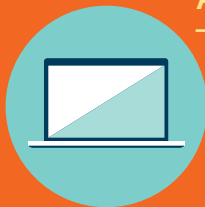
WHAT IS SYNCHRONOUS AND ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING?

Synchronous learning is what typically happens in a traditional community school. The teacher delivers instruction and minilessons and the students receive the information simultaneously. Synchronous learning can be conducted in a face to face classroom as well as conducted remotely over a video conferencing platform such as Microsoft Teams. The remainder of the class time can be used for students in person or online applying and practicing the lesson and skills taught. Asynchronous learning is when students access and self pace through materials and lessons either in a face to face classroom or online digital classroom within the time constraints of a day, week, or unit. Online teaching includes both synchronous and asynchronous learning.



Synchronous Learning

Teaching and learning occurs together, simultaneously. This can happen in person or online.



Asynchronous Learning

Students access learning at different times, and work through it at their own pace.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Knowing your child's learning progress is essential online or in class. Parents/Guardians will need to regularly check PowerSchool and Google Classroom Summaries for student progress, feedback and levels of achievement.

Note: Summative assessments such as unit exams may require your child to schedule an appointment at their school to write the exam with appropriate safety measures in place. This can be done on Thursday afternoons or after the regular school day and will be flexible depending on when staff are available to supervise. **Division Exams, Diploma exams and Provincial Achievement Exams** (Grade 6 and 9) will also require exams to be written at the school under supervision within the scheduled times.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

For those students choosing to continue to participate in the **extra curricular activities** that are being offered at the school during this time, arrangements can be made at their community school to participate.



Please ensure that your school is aware of your program choice i.e. online or regular programming.



SAMPLE SCHEDULE FOR GRADES 1-6 ONLINE STUDENTS

TIME	SUBJECT	THROUGHOUT THE WEEK THERE WILL BE A BALANCE OF:	ONLINE CONFIGURATION
8:30-8:50	Language Arts/ Health	Morning routine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance • Prayer/greetings • Review of classroom norms/expectations • Review the day's agenda • Student check in/ Social Emotional Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole class instruction through Microsoft Teams
8:50-10:30	Language Arts/ Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word Study (i.e. Phonics, Word Work, Word Walls, etc.) • Read Alouds • Whole Group Lesson and Discussion (i.e. minilessons) • Small Group Lessons (i.e. guided reading) • One-on-one Follow-up • Independent Reading with opportunity for reader response activities, journaling, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole class instruction through Microsoft Teams • Small group instruction in classroom online break-outs through Microsoft Teams • Individual check ins through Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom
	Language Arts/ Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole Group Lesson and Discussion (i.e. minilessons) • Small Group Lessons (i.e. guided reading) • One-on-one Follow-up • Independent Writing 	
10:30-11:00	Break	Students are encouraged to take part in physical activity during this time	
11:00-12:00	Mathematics	Teachers will introduce and reinforce concepts through large and small group minilessons. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided, Shared and Independent Learning Opportunities • Math Talks (i.e. targeted minilessons) • Guided Math • Math Centres • Math Journals • Independent time with one-on-one follow-up • Modelling, discussing and introducing concepts. • Teacher follow-ups are in small groups and one-on-one as students completing online assignments/projects/games 	
12:00-12:30	Lunch		
12:30 - 2:00	Science/Social Studies	Project based learning with teacher guidance - online and follow-up work for student independent time	
2:00-2:30	Religion & Health/ Dismissal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the Religion program: <i>Growing in Faith</i> - student and home resource • Classroom Religious Celebrations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole class instruction through Microsoft Teams • Small group collaboration through Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom

* Kindergarten will be half day programming with a focus on literacy and numeracy.

* Times as well as activities will change depending on school and class schedules.