



# Welcome to BRSD At-Home Learning!

We have been working tirelessly to set up our BRSD At Home Learning Program for the 2020-21 school year and appreciate how patient and understanding you have been. As you are aware your child(ren) is/are now enrolled to participate at home in our full-time learning program developed and delivered by a BRSD teacher(s). Students who participate in At-Home Learning have been assigned to a class with a classroom teacher who will be providing their learning. For those families who choose not to use technology there will be the option of print resources.

## Your At-Home Learning Administrators:

For any questions/concerns regarding the At-Home Learning Program please contact the program Principal at: (780)672-2205

Principal:	Mrs. Laura Swanson
Assistant Principal:	Mr. Lloyd McKenzie
Assistant Principal:	Mrs. Keely Nelson

## How will at-home learning be different than March - June 2020?

Battle River School Division at home learning teachers have worked with their school division grade/subject alike colleagues to plan out their year in relation to the essential learning outcomes in the Alberta curriculum. The difference for this year's at home learning program will be that these outcomes will be covered in a structured online environment.

- K-6, learners will utilize Google Classroom and Meet to work with their teachers at scheduled times. Students will need to be available to connect with their teacher every day. These online lessons, meetings and tutorials will provide the teacher with valuable information the teacher will use to determine student understanding. At-home learning will require a commitment to regular attendance, completion of assignments and homework on a timely basis and participation in online class/small group/individual meetings. As well, students will be expected to complete independent learning activities during times they are not engaged with the teacher. Students will be able to request additional help from their teacher through Google Meet, email or telephone.
- Junior and senior high students will use Google tools and complete their coursework through Classroom. Online lessons/tutorials/meetings will be scheduled and attendance will be taken. All assignments and information will be shared through Classroom and completed under the direction and pacing of their at home teacher. Students need to be

available to connect with their teacher every day. They will also be expected to complete independent learning activities during times they are not engaged with the teacher.

## **Who will be my child's teacher?**

Your child's at home teacher may not be a staff member at the school where your child is enrolled. Students in our at home learning group will be from more than one Division school. At home learning students will also remain enrolled in the school where they registered for 2020–21. Students, families will continue to receive information from their school. Staffing for at home learning is now complete. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you the week of September 8. Most families will hear from the teacher early in the week, but Kindergarten families may be a bit later.

## **What about a supplies list for at-home learning?**

You likely have everything you need to get your child started - teachers may ask you to have markers or crayons available but that will be determined by the teacher once the year begins and you have had the chance to get any extra supplies. Textbooks will be provided by your community school; as well students will be able to borrow books from the school library. More information on this will be shared in the coming weeks.

## **What programs will be available for my child?**

Core and some option programming will be offered to all at-home K-12 students in BRSD. Teachers across the Division are following a common timeline to cover the curriculum, quarterly. This will support families who decide to move between online and in-person learning at quarter transitions.

## **Can I access Career Counsellors and myPass if I'm in high school?**

All at-home students will continue to have access to myPass; as well, the career counsellors will be available to support students through email, telephone and Google Meet sessions.

## **What if at-home learning is not working - when can my child return to school?**

At four key times during the school year, families will be able to decide if their child will attend school in person or choose to learn at home. To offer this choice, Battle River School Division is

organizing the school year into four instructional quarters (two-month periods of learning). A switch can happen at the beginning of any quarter.

- Quarter 1: September 3 to November 10
- Quarter 2: November 18 to January 29
- Quarter 3: February 1 to April 20
- Quarter 4: April 21 to June 29

## **What are the fees for at-home learning?**

As this program is through BRSD, your child's education funding goes to the division. The only fee charged will be school fees which would be the same if your child was attending in-person instruction in the classroom.

## **Do I need technology?**

If families choose to have at-home learning will require a device and wireless Internet access available in the home, unless you would prefer a paper based program. Note that a school chromebook may be lent to a family upon receipt of a \$100 deposit. Please contact your community school's Principal if you are interested in this option.

Students who have a device and access to the internet are ready to go.

## **What if I would prefer my child to do a paper version of the learning?**

If you feel a paper based version of the at-home learning program would better suit your family/child's needs please let your child's at home teacher know and they will make arrangements for this.

## **How will my child's learning be assessed?**

Teaching will follow provincial learning outcomes—statements about knowledge or skills that Alberta Education requires us to teach. Some outcomes relate to key concepts and big ideas that teachers want students to understand and remember long after they have forgotten the details. Specific learner outcomes can be grouped together, or chunked, in meaningful ways. Our teachers have a responsibility to teach the Program of Studies as mandated by Alberta Education. They are also required to assess the related and essential outcomes from the Program of Studies. There will be a variety of formative and summative assessment tasks to determine your child's understanding. Your child's at-home teacher will share their term plans/course outlines with you that you are aware of the learning they will be engaging in.

## **My child is enrolled in a diploma course, will they write diploma exams?**

Students who are enrolled in diploma courses are required by the Ministry of Education to write a diploma exam. Students will be registered to write their exams at their home school site. Diploma exam schedules and the location where the exam will take place will be provided to students by their at home learning teacher.

## **Will my child be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities?**

Yes, your child will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities, these opportunities will be communicated to you through your home community school newsletters.

## **Can my child access support services such as FSLWS and MHCB programs while they are learning at home?**

Yes, these support services will be made available by contacting your child's at home learning teacher/Principal.

## **Our At-Home Learning Website will be coming to you soon!**

Our At-Home learning site will be launched as soon as possible, parents and students will be notified as soon as it is up and running. All of the most current information regarding At Home learning will be found there!