



Battle River School Division Faith-Based Home Education Handbook

“Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding...” - Proverbs 3:1

Home Education in Battle River School Division #31

Welcome to the Faith-based Parent Directed Home Education program in Battle River School Division.

Faith-based Parent Directed Home Education provides the freedom and flexibility to plan the program unique to your child within a Christian worldview.

Our mission is to provide Parent Directed Home Education services that assist children and families in achieving educational excellence with their future in mind.

We believe that:

- Parents have a right and a responsibility to make decisions respecting the education of their children.
- Children can learn in a variety of ways, in a variety of locations, using a variety of curricula, from a variety of people.
- Excellence in learning can occur when parents and children are comfortable with learning choices.
- Children benefit from one to one instruction and/or small group instruction that a family can offer.
 - Success and achievement come in different forms for each child.
 - All students can and should take ownership of their learning.
 - Our school system must be flexible and innovative to meet the challenges of families and changing educational needs.
- Parents have a right and a responsibility to make decisions respecting the education of their children.

The purpose of this handbook is to help parents understand our Parent Directed Home Education program. We trust it answers many important questions parents often have when considering Parent Directed Home Education.

Battle River School Division is committed to assisting parents/students/guardians with a choice to educate their children at home using an aligned program that follows the Alberta Program of Studies or through a varied program that follows the outcomes outlined in the Home Education Guidelines. The goal is to create a quality educational environment that meets everyone's needs

Faith-Based Program Foundational Beliefs

- God is our Creator who knows and loves everyone.
- The Bible is the primary resource for Christian teaching.
- The Old and New Testaments of the Bible are the inspired Word of God. • There is one God, existing in three persons: o God the Father, o Jesus Christ, His only Son, o The Holy Spirit.
- Jesus lived on the Earth, was crucified, died and rose again for the justification of all people, that we might have eternal life.
- Salvation is given to those who confess their sins and believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Through Jesus we can be forgiven and just as he forgives our sins, so we must forgive others who hurt us or sin against us.
- Jesus is alive and strengthens us through His Holy Spirit.
- We live on Earth to love God and serve Him by caring for and serving others.
- We devote time to God by reading His Word and speaking to Him through prayer.

Home Education

A parent/guardian choosing to educate their child at home is required by *The School Act*, to notify their Resident Board or Non-Resident Board of their decision to Home School. The parent/guardian then takes on the role of planning, facilitating, and assessing the instruction of the child. The goal of the Home Education administration is to work cooperatively with parents/guardians to offer support and guidance in the development and assessment of home education programs.

Registration

All children who are 6 years of age or older by December 31st (eligible to attend school within the division) of the school year may register as a home education student. Any student who wishes to register with Battle River School Division Home Education must complete a Home Education Notification form.

Learning Plan

The first step after registration will be to create a Learning Plan. The Learning Plan is an important document that will guide your home schooling plan for the school year. It defines your home education program, assures your authority, and provides details about how your child's education will look. Your plan is flexible, and you may change it at any time in the year. The Battle River Home Education Administration team will provide you with sample templates and provide further support as needed.

Faith-based learning will include activities and outcomes connected to the Bible that will be outlined in the Learning Plan.

As the parent is the lead teacher, each family's home education program will be unique based on their values and beliefs.

Devotions, prayer, and scripture memorization can be important components of faith-based programs. Activities can include opportunities to pray. Prayer can include the parent and student-led prayers, prayer intentions, grace at meal time, singing Christian songs and choruses, spontaneous prayer at any time by students for someone, some issue, or event.

Prayer and Bible reading are integral parts of devotional time and could include:

- Writing or drawing about what a scripture verse means and how to apply it to life today.
- Writing or drawing about how God works in individual lives.
- Writing or drawing about an important, meaningful verse.
- Viewing Christian multimedia.
- Leading group devotions.
- Reading a Christian novel
- Listening to Christian music.
- Reading scriptures.
- Playing games, such as Bible trivia.
- Participating in activities that serve others.

Resources

Students are eligible to receive up to \$850 for the purchase of educational materials approved by the Home Education Administration. These materials may be accessed by the parent/guardian once approval has been granted. More information about resources is available from the Home Education Administration team.

This supplemental funding is in addition to other resources available at Battle River School Division and will allow parents to access resources, services, facilities, and supplies not directed provided. Expenses submitted for reimbursement should cover a variety of outcomes based on the learning plan developed. Expenses for resources are typically reimbursed up to the maximum allocation for expenses incurred during the current school year.

Monitoring Procedures

The home school administrator is required by the Home Education Regulation of the Alberta School Year to complete two monitoring meetings throughout the year to provide support and report on your child's progress based on the learning plan developed. The administrator will set up at least two meetings.

- An initial visit will take place to consult with the parent/guardian about the Learning Plan and the delivery mode selected. At this time, the Home Education administrator will either assist the parent/guardian in developing the Learning Plan or merely review the existing plan.

Timeline: This initial visit must take place before Sept 30th of each year.

- At least two meetings during the year to monitor progress of the student and offer assistance and support to the student(s) and parent/guardian.

Timeline: January-May of each year

Program Termination

In the event that a Home Education student is failing to achieve the expectations of the Learning Plan at a satisfactory rate of completion, the Home Education Administrator and the parent shall review the Learning Plan and either adjust the requirements, or refer the student to another educational choice in order to better meet the needs of the student. If the student is still not meeting the expectations of the Learning Plan at a satisfactory rate of completion, the Home Education Administrator will either refer the matter to the Attendance Board or recommend to the Associate Superintendent that the student pursue other means of education.

Responsibilities and Expectations

Educational success depends on the joint commitment of parents and students and the Battle River Home Education Administration team to lifelong learning. Each partner plays a key role in developing lifelong learners who are independent, critical thinkers responsible for their own learning. Working together as a team, will ensure your child's success.

Student Expectations

- Be an active participant in the learning process
- Follow a regular work schedule
- Complete assignments in a reasonable time frame
- Be responsible for the diligent completion of learning tasks
- Provide input and feedback regarding their learning
- Model Christian faith and devotion

Parent/Guardian Expectations

- Reads the Home Education planning book
- Decides on whether the plan will follow Alberta Programs of Study or the Schedule of Learning Outcomes
- Completes Home Education Registration form
- Completes a Learning Plan that describes intent to comply with the requirements of the Home Education Regulation (Section 23 of Alberta School Act). Parent will submit the Learning Plan to the administration team by Sept 30th each year.
- Administers and manages the faith-based program, updating program plan as needed.
- Evaluates student progress at regular intervals and maintains dated samples of work (student portfolio).
- Will be available to meet and review student achievement
- Submits receipts for reimbursement for program plan expenses by April 30th of each year.
- Teach Christian faith and devotion

Home School Administrator

- Provides ongoing support and guidance about program options and planning
- Supportive Christian worldview
- Meets with parents/students and evaluates the student's progress twice a year
- Reimburses up to \$850 to defray costs incurred in administering home education programming.
- Provides access to resources

Achievement Exams

Students in grade 6 and grade 9 are encouraged to write the Alberta Provincial Achievement Exams. Parents will be informed of dates and writing locations of these exams, well in advance, so that they can make arrangements for their children to participate. More information can be found on the Alberta Education website at <https://www.alberta.ca/provincial-achievement-tests.aspx>.

Students who are home-schooled are eligible for accommodations and provisions. To ensure the writing centre is prepared for home-schooled students to write provincial achievement tests with accommodations and provisions, the parents of home-schooled students must contact the writing centre principal directly before the administration.

If parents are not in favour of their children writing the Provincial Achievement Tests, they must inform the Home School Administrator in writing that their child will not be participating.

Diploma Exams

Students wishing to attain an Alberta High School Diploma must write Diploma Examinations. Students must register with Alberta Learning in order to be eligible to take the Diploma Exam. Students must create an account in My Pass on <https://public.education.alberta.ca/PASI/myPass/welcome>. It is the responsibility of the Grade 12 student to inform the Battle River administration at the selected school site so that materials are ready and available.

Faith Based Curricular Supports (Available for purchase should families choose)

Easy Peasy- All in one, free home school materials (print and online)
<https://allinonehomeschool.com/>

BJU Press- offers Christian home school curriculum (print, online, and videos)
<https://www.bjupresshomeschool.com/content/home>

Christian Light Education (CLE) Curriculum
<https://christianlight.org/shop-curriculum/by-grade>

Accelerated Christian Education (A.C.E)
<https://www.acecanada.net/pdfs/ACE%20Catalog.pdf>

Supports and Resources

Making the decision to home school your child is a big responsibility and the Battle River School Division Home Education Administration is here to support you on your journey. There are also many community resources available to enrich and support your home schooling experience. These may include programs available at your local library, recreation centre, or community centre. Resources can also include digital platforms like virtual field trips. Further information can be found on our website. Please don't hesitate to contact us for more information depending on your geographic location.

Battle River School District support include:

- Use of local school library
- Ability to join special interest areas/groups like Band programs or extra-curricular clubs
- Planned recreation activities (e.g. rec centers, gym space)
- Themed activities
- Online support for families to connect

Thank you

Thank you for choosing Battle River School Division to help support you in the Parent Directed Home Education Program. We look forward to working with you and your family.

If you have any questions, we are here to support you. Please contact:

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**Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart
Psalm 37:4**



Growing Together