

ALCDSB Virtual School – Remote Learning

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board is opening a new elementary virtual school for Remote Learning.

The virtual school – Remote Learning will be created in response to the return to school survey that was completed by families, indicating whether or not their child(ren) would be returning to school.

The survey data indicated that of the families that responded to the survey, 10% of families would be participating in Remote Learning. The majority of these families are in elementary. Because of this data, ALCDSB has created a virtual school for Remote Learning.

This school will be staffed by Principal Dan Finn and ALCDSB educators from across our Catholic school communities. Most recently, Dan Finn has served as the principal of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, and had an integral role in the transition and opening of ALCDSB's newest Catholic elementary school. Dan Finn has also had the role of principal of ALCDSB Summer School and Online Summer Learning for many years.

We understand that due to COVID-19 Remote Learning is a temporary choice for students. Please know that where possible services that students previously accessed in our schools related to their learning needs and wellness will be available to Remote Learners (e.g child and youth worker, special education).

Here is some key information about the Virtual Elementary School:

- **The first day of school for the Virtual School will be Monday, September 14** (please note this is different than In-Person learning)
- The school day will begin at 9:00 a.m.
- For students in Remote Learning wishing to return to In-Person learning, the earliest date of return is Tuesday, October 12. This must be done in consultation with your home school principal. Please note that this return may not be immediate and is dependent on individual school scenarios. Other entry points will be communicated at a later date by the Virtual School principal. Families who wish to go from In-Person Learning to Remote Learning will follow the same timelines
- Educators for the virtual school will not be the same as students' home school teacher, but all educators are ALCDSB staff
- The units of study will not necessarily match up so there may be gaps or overlap in a student's programming if they move between the two modes of learning
- French Immersion will not be provided in the Remote Learning program. All students will receive a minimum of one period of Core French per week of 40 minutes
- Remote Learning will consist of a combination of synchronous (live). This will include a combination of whole class, small group and one on one instruction. Asynchronous learning is not delivered in real time and may include activities such as watching pre-recorded video lessons, completing assigned tasks, independent work or contributing to online discussion boards.
- There are minimum time requirements depending on student Grade level.

Grade Level of Students	Daily Minimum Synchronous (in real time) Learning Time Required
Kindergarten	180 Minutes
Grades 1 to 3	225 Minutes
Grades 4 to 8	225 Minutes

- During Remote Learning, students and parents/guardians will be provided with a daily schedule that includes combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning activities. Programming will be based on the overall expectations of the *Ontario Curriculum*
- Technology devices may be available to families who chose Remote Learning but do not have access to their own devices. [If you require a device for Remote Learning, please complete this survey.](#)

Remote Learning for Secondary Students

Secondary students will participate in Remote Learning through their classroom teacher at their home school. Secondary students will not be part of the new Virtual School – Remote Learning.

Here is some key information about secondary students:

- **All secondary Remote Learning will begin on Tuesday, September 8th**
- As per the Ministry of Education guidelines, Grade 9-12 students will receive a minimum of 225 minutes of synchronous learning
- Remote Learning will be available through Desire 2 Learn (D2L), which is accessible through the student's my.alcdsb.on.ca page
- For students who wish to return to In-Person learning, students must do this at the beginning of an octomester (e.g at the start of period 2, October 13 or start of period 3, November 13) and in consultation with the home school principal
- Educators of Remote Learning will be the same as the student's home-school teacher, who will provide synchronous and asynchronous learning activities
- The school day will be in the same time frame as the student's homeschool. [Please confirm your start and end times here](#)
- As each course will be 22 days, followed by an exam date, it is imperative that students are participating in the form of a regular school day, unless specified otherwise by their classroom teacher
- In classes that require experiential learning, teachers will provide remote learners with choices of activities
- Technology devices may be available to families who chose Remote Learning but do not have access to their own devices. [If you require a device for Remote Learning, please complete this survey.](#)
- If there are course access or synchronous technical issues, support will be available through help@alcdsb.on.ca