



Welcome to the TDSB Elementary Virtual School Family Newsletter!

The past few months have been incredibly busy as everyone adjusted to this new teaching and learning format and we are pleased to see that students have settled into their virtual classrooms and learning is well underway.

Moving forward, a newsletter will be shared with families on a regular basis to keep you well informed and aware of news, events and other important information happening within the Elementary Virtual School and across the TDSB.

For more information and updates, please visit:
www.tdsb.on.ca/virtualschool.

Important Updates

Update: Kindergarten Communication of Learning and Progress Reports

With the school start date for Elementary Virtual School being slightly later than that for In-Person Schools. Therefore, the progress reporting period has been extended by two weeks. The Kindergarten Communication of Learning and Grades 1-8 Progress Reports will be sent home between **November 30 and December 3, 2020**.

PA Day and Parent/Guardian- Teacher Interviews

For Virtual School the reporting timelines have been adjusted and pushed back by two weeks. **The revised date for the PA Day and Parent/Guardian – Teacher Conferences will be December 4.** Teachers will schedule conferences with parents/guardians virtually or by phone. Teachers may make themselves available outside of instructional time to communicate with parents/guardians regarding the progress of their child(ren).

Please note that for Virtual School only, November 20 will be a regular instructional day and students are expected to

attend school. Virtual School students will not be expected to attend school on December 4.

TDSB Virtual Schools Code of Conduct: Schools/Educators, Students and Parents/Guardians

Virtual learning is a new experience for everyone and while learning is taking place at home, the same responsibilities and expectations of teachers, students and parents/guardians apply as they do for in-person learning. This includes existing board policies and procedures such as the [TDSB Online Code of Conduct](#).

Please also review the [TDSB Virtual Schools Code of Conduct](#), which provides guidelines and expectations for schools/educators, students and parents/guardians.

Contact Information for Administrators

If you have any questions or concerns, your first point of contact should always be your child's teacher. If you need to be in contact with the Principal or Vice Principal of the Elementary Virtual School for any reason, please find the appropriate person for your child's Learning Centre and Grade on this [Admin List for Elementary Virtual Schools](#).



A Parent's Guide to Play-Based Learning in Full-Day Kindergarten

The Ministry of Education has prepared the following document. Although Teaching and Learning may not look the same, the importance of play at home, at school and in the community is an important part of a child's emotional, physical, and social development.

www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/parents-guide-play-based-learn-en.pdf.

Additional Resources for Families

- [Resources to Support Reading](#)
- [Supporting Reading at Home](#)
- [Mental Health and Well-Being Resources](#)

Grade 8 to 9 Transitions

Grade 8 students and families are invited to attend virtual open houses and information sessions (live or pre-recorded) hosted by high schools beginning in November. These sessions offer important information to help make an informed decision when choosing a high school. To learn more about important program and school information, access the pre-recorded information sessions and see the dates/times for information sessions, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/openhouses.

November is Indigenous Education Month

In November, we honour Indigenous Education Month at the TDSB. This month reminds us to centre First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives, histories and contemporary realities. In classrooms across the TDSB, it is an opportunity to learn about treaties, Indigenous leadership, achievements, and resistance.

Over the course of this month, students, staff and community members recognize a number of important days to deepen knowledge, to learn together about our shared history, and to build stronger relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. [Learn More](#).

Telephone System Improvements

All virtual schools telephone systems now include an auto attendant menu and extensions for all staff members. With outgoing calls, the TDSB virtual school main telephone number will be displayed so families can feel confident to answer a call with a TDSB-branded telephone number (e.g. "416-39X").

The following improvements have also been made to the auto attendant menu:

- All calls will be answered by the auto attendant and callers will be presented with a menu customized per school where they can "self-serve" and select an option.
- If the caller knows the telephone extension of the person they want to speak with, they can enter it immediately to be redirected.



- If the caller needs technical assistance, they can select menu option #1 and be redirected to the Student Virtual Learning - IT Support Line.
- Student absence calls will be redirected to the School Messenger Notification System. Parents/guardians will be prompted for information about their child to be automatically logged in Trillium.
- The following number will appear when a parent/guardian receives a call regarding a student absence: 833-250-2290.
- For student matters, callers will be presented with a sub-menu, based on grade and can speak with the appropriate staff member and/or leave a message. Callers also have the option to Press 0 to reach the main office staff.

Elementary Virtual School Phone Numbers

Learning Centre 1
416- 394-4070

Learning Centre 2
416-395-9200

Learning Centre 3
416-396-2000

Learning Centre 4
416-397-2468



Did you know that students can access TDSB provided eBooks, encyclopedias, videos and other information when learning from home?

The TDSB Virtual Library has carefully selected digital resources, to support student learning, that can be accessed online anytime, anywhere. This includes:

- **Curriculum relevant online resources/tools** to help with projects, homework, and to encourage reading and viewing in a variety of formats for K to 12 learners - eBooks, database articles, streamed media, and online tools (see Read Watch Learn and Find)
- **Subject links** to help with research, math practice, games, homework (see Find)
- **Resources for starting an inquiry or research project** (see Inquiry and Find)
- **Reading suggestions and student book reviews** (see Read and Just Read It)

The Virtual Library is available through any web browser and does not require credentials. Find it here:

- www.tdsb.on.ca/library
- Through your school's web page
- Through your Brightspace classroom

The [Virtual Library Password Information Page](#) includes passwords needed to access many of the Virtual Library resources from home.

To learn more about the Virtual Library, please view the [slide deck shared at the TDSB Parents Reaching Out conference](#).