

Students and Families,

Welcome to TVDSB's Secondary Full Remote Learning Program! The past several months have been challenging for everyone, and we appreciate the resilience and flexibility that has been demonstrated by students and families across Thames Valley. We are preparing to welcome students to a structured remote learning program. We are both the newest and largest learning community in Thames Valley with over 3000 students enrolled, and over 140 teachers to support them in their learning. We will be starting the program on Thursday September 17.

While everyone completed the last school year online, you will notice several differences between your experience in the spring (Emergency Learning at a Distance), and this coming school year which is referred to as Full Remote Learning.

Structure of the Day/School Year:

- The structure will be 4 quadesters of learning, each 10 weeks in length, where students will concentrate on only two courses at a time.
- Within these 10-week quadesters, students will concentrate on only one course per week, switching to the other course for the following week (for example, Math in Week 1 and English in Week 2, returning to Math in Week 3 and so on to total 5 weeks in each course). We start with the period one class.
- Each day, students will have 300 minutes of learning time, 240 of which will be directly supported online by their teacher. This is referred to as synchronous learning time. During this time, the teacher may be conducting real-time lesson or assessment with the whole class, students may be working individually on a skill with direct access to the teacher for support, or perhaps students will be working in small groups in a virtual space. Teachers will work to vary the events of the day to maintain student engagement for this synchronous time.
- The remaining 60 minutes of the school day will be asynchronous time to complete independent learning tasks such as previously assigned work or preparing for upcoming assessments.
- Attendance is mandatory each day and will be taken at different points in the learning. Students are asked to arrive promptly at 8:15am in the online space. Attendance is 5 days a week as this program has no cohorts.
- Breaks will be scheduled into the day to allow for self-care, along with a 45-minute lunch break. This will be a similar design to the school day that students are used to, however they will be returning to work on the same subject after each break.
- The Daily Schedule will be as follows:

Instructional Time	8:15 – 9:15
Break	9:15 – 9:30
Instructional Time	9:30 – 10:30
Lunch	10:30 – 11:15
Instructional Time	11:15 –12:15
Break	12:15 –12:30
Instructional Time	12:30 – 1:30
Asynchronous Learning Time	1:30 – 2:30

- Your home school guidance counsellor helped revise course selections to fit with our remote learning course offerings. We have built timetables and are resolving conflicts including sequencing problems (grade 11 English before grade 10 English, for example). Timetables will be visible on Monday in the portal. Please allow us until Tuesday to resolve the sequencing issues, and we ask that students check the timetable on Tuesday morning to see if it is resolved. If it is not fixed on Tuesday, please send an email including the student's full name and student number to secondaryremotelearning@tvdsb.ca and we will work on resolving it.
- Course changes for a graduation requirement or a missing prerequisite are the only ones that we can consider. A request must be made through the home school guidance counsellor. Our courses are full, limiting us to only essential changes.

Online Classroom Information:

- Students will be using the Brightspace online platform for all courses to ensure consistency. Each course that a student is enrolled in within Brightspace will have its own separate online space.
- All assigned work will be utilized to determine students' final grade in the course. This means that each task is important and your performance on all will be considered.
- At the end of each quadmester, students will complete a final task in each course (traditionally, this would involve a task and an exam however there will be no online exams).

Suggestions in Preparation for the School Year

- Having a dedicated workspace in a quiet area is important as much of the time students will be interacting with their teacher(s) and classmates.
- Please know that it will not be possible for siblings to share devices in the Full Remote Learning model because of the expectation of real-time connections online. If this is the case in your home, please contact your home school to request an additional device.
- If you completed the return to learn survey indicating the need for a device, there will be communication from your home school about picking up the device soon if you have not already had the opportunity to do so.
- Try logging into Brightspace using the instructions below ahead of time in case you have technical issues (NOTE: You will not be able to get into your 'class' withing Brightspace before it begins, but you should be able to log into the platform.)

The First Day of School for Students

- Classes will begin on Thursday September 17 at 8:15 am.
- You will log into Brightspace by navigating to: www.tvdsb.elearningontario.ca
- Use your Active Directory credentials (Username: First four letters of last name, first four letters of first name, last 3 digits of student number e.g. John Smith 123456789 = smitjohn789).
- On your landing page, you will see your current courses listed. Click on the correct course to enter the online space. We start with your period one class on Thursday, for two days, and then switch to period two for the next week.

A communication system is in place to ensure remote program teachers have access to home school Individual Education Plans. The home school Learning Support teacher will be developing the IEP for this year.

Remote classroom teachers will be contacting families to connect in the very near future.

In the meantime, if you have questions, here's where to ask them:

Questions about...	Direct them to...
Course selections and graduation requirements	Your home school guidance counsellor
Expectations for full remote learning	secondaryremoteflearning@tvdsb.ca
Technology including board-loaned devices and logging into Brightspace (using the info shared above)	Contact the TVDSB Help Desk at 519-452-2005 or email servicesupport@tvdsb.ca

We look forward to seeing you online!

Mary Saunders
Principal

Shereen Miller
Vice-Principal

Karen Ternowski
Vice-Principal

