



2020  

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2021

PARENT RETURN TO  
SCHOOL GUIDE:  
**DSBN VIRTUAL  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**





# Welcome to our DSBN Virtual School!



This informative guide will help your child have a fantastic year of learning. Although things will look different this year, we know with your positive support, we will create an amazing learning community for our students. We are excited to welcome your child into our new DSBN Virtual School!

The DSBN Virtual School was created for the 2020/2021 school year for families who have chosen to have their children learn

from home. Your supervision and assistance are key to your child's success. In addition to your help, your child will be supported by specific classroom teachers through D2L, our virtual learning environment. **Unlike at-home learning that took place in the spring of 2020, classroom online learning requires students to meet all outcomes of the Ontario Curriculum.**

## CURRICULUM:

As always, teachers will be focused on delivering the Ontario Curriculum. The school day will be divided into eight periods with all subjects being taught. The majority of your child's subjects will be taught by their homeroom teacher.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION:

Our staff, including teachers, Learning Resource Teachers, and Educational Assistants will be supporting your child during the 2020/2021 school year. This includes meeting their needs as outlined in your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

## MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING:

An important part of transitioning your child back to school is to focus on their social-emotional learning skills. This will help them to build resilience, manage their stress, and foster positive relationships. Our mental health and well-being staff have teacher-led activities that will help your child have a smooth transition to school and online learning. DSBN Virtual School students will also have access to Youth Counsellor and Social Worker support as needed.

### **There will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning each day.**

**SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING** is a term used to describe all types of learning where students and their teacher are in different places, but connecting at the same time. This includes live online lessons, small group instruction, individual conferencing, and scheduled teacher support when students and parents can access the classroom teacher.

**ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING** refers to all types of learning in which students and teachers are not in the same place at the same time. This includes video recordings of lessons and activities, posted assignments and independent learning.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

DSBN Virtual School

### AREAS 1 AND 2

virtualschool1@dsbn.org

t: 905-708-6036

Principal: Jennifer McDowell

Vice Principal: Kara Veld

<b>AREA 1</b>	River View	McKay
Cherrywood	Simcoe Street	Oakwood
Forestview	St. Davids	Ontario
Garrison Road	Stevensville	Plymouth
Greendale	Valley Way	Prince of Wales S
Heximer	Victoria	Princess Elizabeth
James Morden	<b>AREA 2</b>	Quaker Road
John Brant	A.K. Wigg	Richmond Street
John Marshall	DeWitt Carter	Ross
Kate S. Durdan	Diamond Trail	Steele Street
Martha Cullimore	Fitch Street	W.E. Brown
Orchard Park	Glendale	Wellington Heights
Peace Bridge	Glynn A. Green	Westmount
Princess Margaret	Gordon	Winger

### AREAS 3, 4 AND FRENCH IMMERSION

virtualschool2@dsbn.org

t: 905-708-6037

Principal: Shelley Fehrman

Vice Principal: Kara Veld

<b>AREA 3</b>	Twenty Valley	Parnall
Caistor Central	Westdale	Pine Grove
Edith Cavell	Woodland	Prince Philip N
Gainsborough	<b>AREA 4</b>	Port Weller
Gracefield	Applewood	Prince of Wales N
Grand Avenue	Burleigh Hill	William Hamilton Merritt
Grapeview	Carleton	<b>FRENCH IMMERSION</b>
Jacob Beam	Connaught	Central
Lakeview	Crossroads	Dalewood
Nelles	DSBN Academy (6-8)	Garrison Road
Oakridge	E.I. McCulley	Gordon
Park	Ferndale	Jeanne Sauvé
Power Glen	Harriet Tubman	McKay
Senator Gibson	Lincoln Centennial	Prince Philip S
Smith	Lockview	Princess Elizabeth
Smithville		

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### DSBN VIRTUAL SCHOOL DAILY SCHEDULE

8:30 - 9:20 a.m.	Period 1 Attendance and Building Community
9:20 - 10:00 a.m.	Period 2
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.	Morning Break
10:15 - 10:55 a.m.	Period 3
10:55 - 11:35 a.m.	Period 4
11:35 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Lunch
12:15 - 12:55 p.m.	Period 5 Attendance
12:55 - 1:45 p.m.	Period 6
1:45 - 2:00 p.m.	Afternoon Break
2:00 - 2:40 p.m.	Period 7

Just like learning in-class, there are things you can do to help your child be successful in our DSBN Virtual School.

#### ACE THEIR SPACE:

Having a quiet place to learn will help your child get into the swing of school. A table and chair, with proper lighting, access to a device and charger, with learning resources like paper, pencil and other items will help your child stay organized and on track.

#### FEED THEIR MIND:

Students need fuel to learn which is why your child will have a 40 minute lunch break and two 15-minute breaks.

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS:

Encourage your child to spend some time outside during lunch and break times. Fresh air is great for refueling the brain.

#### PARENT CHECK-INS:

Assignments, updates and important messages will be posted by your child's teacher. A daily check-in ensures that your child is getting their work done, and you are aware of information you may need.

#### WELL-BEING DOES WONDERS:

Just like checking into D2L, it is important to touch base with your child about this new mode of learning. Ask them how their day was, and whether they have any questions or concerns.



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### THE WEEK LEADING UP TO SCHOOL - HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE

When talking about school plans with your child, you can help determine your child's mindset. Set them up for success by teaching them to make the best of it. Be a sounding board for their worries and disappointments. Stay positive and model perseverance. DSBN Virtual School is a positive place to be!

### TECHNOLOGY:

Since our DSBN Virtual School is entirely online, your child does need a device to do their daily work. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you the week of August 31. If you borrowed a device from your home school in the spring you may continue to use this device for virtual learning.

More information will follow about returning or borrowing DSBN technology.

### ACCEPTABLE USE/BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS:

Working together in a positive, respectful way is important to our DSBN Virtual School. Information will be coming from your child's teacher regarding specific expectations and the Acceptable Use Agreement, similar to the one you sign every year at school.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Q. What will the DSBN Virtual School program be like?

##### A. Students will be:

- starting their day at the same time online with their teacher
- logging on five days a week; attendance will be twice daily
- participating in synchronous and asynchronous learning (see page 2 to learn more about what this means)
- following the same curriculum as their peers who are in class
- participating in independent learning activities
- able to contact their teachers for help and to have questions answered

#### Q. Will students be able to change between online to in-person learning?

##### A. Yes, you will be able to move from online to in-class learning.

If you decide that you want to transition your child back to the classroom, it will be possible in mid-November. This is to ensure we have transition plans in place from one form of learning to another. As well, we need to ensure we can set up your child's classroom to maintain COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

If you are considering a change, please contact your DSBN Virtual School principal.

#### Q. What learning software will students use?

##### A. Students attending the DSBN Virtual School will be using D2L.

#### Q. Who will teach students online?

##### A. All DSBN Virtual School teachers are qualified DSBN elementary teachers who have been specifically assigned to teach online learning.

#### Q. Are the learning hours flexible?

##### A. No. The schedule of the DSBN Virtual School is a set schedule, just like all DSBN schools.

#### Q. What happens if my child has questions or is falling behind?

##### A. Your child will be able to ask questions and interact with the teacher during the synchronous learning times of the day. All teachers will have scheduled times when students will be able to reach them in real time to ensure that all students receive additional support. Checking in to your child's D2L learning space daily is an important way of ensuring your child does not fall behind. Just like in school, parents can reach out to the teacher to discuss their child's progress.

#### Q. Will my child receive a report card?

##### A. Yes. All students in the DSBN Virtual School will receive the Ontario Ministry of Education report card at the same time as their peers in schools.

#### Q. My child is on an Individualized Education Plan. Does this continue with online learning?

##### A. Yes. Your child's I.E.P. will be implemented by the teacher and discussed with you.

**Q. Will attendance be taken at the DSBN Virtual School?**

**A.** Yes. Virtual School attendance will be taken first thing every morning after students enter their classroom during Period 1 and again during Period 6. As like in-class school and learning, attendance is mandatory and absences need to be reported by parents. Safe Arrival will be used to report absences. Information on how to use this tool will be sent out the first week of school.

**Q. Is the D2L platform safe?**

**Is my family's information private?**

**A.** Yes, only you are able to enter a classroom assigned to your child with a DSBN password and login. No personal information is accessible.

Privacy is important to us, and protected in exactly the same way as it is at all DSBN schools.

