



Fact Sheet

SGDSB Virtual Elementary School: A guide for parents to maximize student success at home

Revised August 27, 2020

“As students will be learning from home, the collaboration between parents and teachers will be important to the success of the students’ learning outcomes.”

For students to be successful during remote learning, it is essential that the caregiver is directly involved in the structure, routine, communication and delivery of the learning.

From our experiences last spring with remote learning, we have outlined below some of the essential practices that helped to ensure success.

Best practices to support remote student learning:

- ✓ Creating a routine for the child to follow such as: getting up at the same time each day, eating breakfast before class starts, gathering and setting up computer and other materials (with the support of the parent/caregiver) prior to the start of the day (class); following the schedule as outlined by the virtual teacher regarding activities and subject work; ensuring the child attends every day; having clearly defined ‘recess’ breaks and lunch breaks; and end of day wrap-up routines (putting materials away, tidying up, etc.)
- ✓ Younger children require one-to-one support from their parent or caregiver. This may look like the caregiver sitting beside the child while he/she is participating in class; helping the child to gather tools and materials requested by the teacher
- ✓ Helping the child to complete the activity by supporting their learning during independent work time. The child may need help reading instructions or reading a question
- ✓ Parents and caregivers help the child in navigating different online tools
- ✓ Parents and caregivers participate in regular, ongoing communication with remote learning teacher
- ✓ Parents and caregivers have discussions with the teacher as to how to best support the learning of the child – prompting questions, utilizing materials to support learning of concepts, etc.



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Parents and Teachers Working Together as a Team

Another essential component to the success of students is that parents/caregivers work in close collaboration with teachers. This work supports the creation of a culture of comfort with the virtual classroom, as well as allowing families to positively support their child's learning. Strategies may include the following:

- ✓ Parents/caregivers and teachers connect regularly
- ✓ Together they build a foundation for learning and the learning environment by providing consistent support and feedback that is positive and encourages growth
- ✓ Celebrate achievements, share any challenges and discuss potential next steps for supports at home
- ✓ Caregivers and parents should familiarize themselves with the teacher's plans and schedules, so they can support their child when needed

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

Henry Ford