

What's the difference between At-Home Learning and Home Schooling?

Schools will fully re-open in September of 2020,

We recognize some families may want their children to continue to be educated from home.

Here's what **At-Home Learning** can look like:

- BRSD teachers create lesson plans based on Alberta curriculum;
- BRSD provides students with textbooks and learning resources. Arrangements can be made for use of a division-owned chromebook if needed.
- Teachers regularly connect with students through on-line formats, to provide instruction, assignments, exams and encouragement.
- Teachers review assignments and exams and provide feedback.
- Parents support their children to complete assignments and exams, using the materials provided.
- Families can access other BRSD support services for their students, such as Educational Assistants to assist with specialized needs; programs provided by Mental Health Capacity Building Program workers, to help build resilience and learn coping strategies; Family School Liaison Workers to support individual students and families with specific issues; and more.



At-Home Learning will be available through every school in Battle River.

Students can register in their usual school and access at-home learning,

which will be offered directly either by teachers at their school or within the school division.

Home Schooling is different. **Home Schooling** can look like:

- Parents creating lesson plans, based on existing curriculum or their own priorities;
- Parents choosing the format of instruction, assignments and exams, and taking on the role of providing it.
- There are home school programs which can support parents in their educator role. These programs can help parents access learning resources and ideas.
- BRSD has a home schooling program available through Camrose Outreach School / Battle River Online.



Only you can decide whether in-person schooling, at-home learning or home schooling

is the right option for your family.

Whatever you decide, we'll be here to help.



Common questions about at-home learning

1. How do I register my children for at-home learning?

Please register your children in the school they would normally attend.

2. Is at-home learning available for all grade levels?

Yes, at-home learning opportunities will be available for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12.

3. Does at-home learning start the same day as in-person school, on September 3?

At-home learning will start on Tuesday, September 8.

4. Will my child have the same teacher at home as they would have at school?

No. The school division will have designated teachers assigned to offer at-home learning. They will not be the same teachers who are providing instruction to students in classrooms.

5. What kind of learning resources will BRSD provide for at-home learning?

Students will be provided textbooks and learning resources as needed. Instructional materials can be provided on paper or in an electronic format, whichever works best for the student and family. The school division will also have a limited number of chromebooks available for student use at home.

6. Will all courses be available at home?

The emphasis will be on ensuring students are provided with core courses (Language Arts, Math, Social and Science) as well as some complementary / optional courses.

7. What if I want to switch my children from being at-home to being at school?

Schools will be organizing learning in four different blocks of time (quarters) this year. Students can switch between at-home or in-person learning at the end of each quarter. The quarters will be:

Quarter 1: September 3 to November 10

Quarter 2: November 16 to January 29

Quarter 3: February 1 to April 20

Quarter 4: April 21 to June 29

The school division will not be able to accommodate more frequent switching.

8. If my child is required to self-isolate during the school year, do they automatically get switched to the at-home learning program?

No. Students who are absent temporarily will be supported by their classroom teacher.



Questions & Answers for Parents of At-Home BRSD Students

For the 2020-21 school year, families will have the option to keep their students at home full-time with a program developed and delivered for them by a BRSD teacher. Students who participate in At-Home Learning will be assigned to a class with a classroom teacher providing their learning. For those families who choose not to use technology there will be the option of print resources.

What's the difference between "at-home" and homeschooling?

While both are a choice for parents, home schooling is a program that requires the parent to be the teacher and developer of an independent learning plan for their child(ren). At-home learning is a result of the Covid pandemic and is available for our BRSD students who will continue to learn in our school division, but will do so, remotely (not on the school site). BRSD expects that at-home students will successfully complete all subjects - the same as they would if they were attending class in-person.

How will at-home learning be different than March - June 2020?

Battle River school division at home learning teachers will work with their school division grade/subject alike colleagues to plan out their year in relation to the essential learning outcomes in the Alberta curriculum. The difference for these students will be that these outcomes will be covered in a structured online environment.

K-6, learners will utilize Google Classroom and Meet to work with their teachers at scheduled times. These online lessons, meetings and tutorials will support the formative and summative assessments that teachers will provide to determine student understanding. At-home learning will require a commitment to ensure regular attendance, completion of assignments and homework on a timely basis and participation in online class/small group/individual meetings. Students will be able to request help from their teacher just like in class through Google Meet, email or telephone.

Junior and senior high students will also use Google tools and complete their coursework through Classroom. Online lessons/tutorials/meetings will be scheduled. All assignments and instructions will be shared through Classroom.

What programs will be available for my child?

Core classes and option programming will be offered to all at-home K-12 students in BRSD.

How will I register my child for at-home learning?

If you have completed the Re-entry survey the first step is already done. You may now register your child(ren) with their school just as you have always done in the past. Your child's at-home teacher will contact you with all of the information you require to get students off to a positive start to the school year.

What if at-home learning is not working - when can my child return to school?

At four key times during the school year, families will be able to decide if their child will attend school in person or choose to learn at home. To offer this choice, Battle River School Division is organizing the school year into four instructional quarters (two-month periods of learning). A switch can happen at the beginning of any quarter.

- Quarter 1: September 3 to November 10
- Quarter 2: November 16 to January 29
- Quarter 3: February 1 to April 20
- Quarter 4: April 21 to June 29

What are the fees for at-home learning?

As this program is through BRSD, your child's education funding goes to the division. The only fee charged will be school fees which would be the same if your child was attending in-person instruction in the classroom.

Do I need technology?

If families choose to have at-home learning with technology they require a device and wireless Internet access available in the home. If available, a school chromebook may be lent to a family upon receipt of a \$100 deposit. Please contact your community school's Principal.

If you have a device and access to the internet you are ready to go, or if you would rather your child work on paper copies instead, please contact your child's teacher.

How will my child's learning be assessed?

Our teachers have a responsibility to teach the Program of Studies as mandated by Alberta Education. They are also required to assess the related and essential outcomes from the Program of Studies. There will be a variety of formative and summative assessment tasks to determine your child's understanding. Your child's at-home teacher will share their term plans/course outlines with you that you are aware of the learning they will be engaging in.

Will my child be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities?

Yes, your child will be allowed to participate.

Can my child access support services such as EAs, FSLWS and MHCB programs while they are learning at home?

Yes, these support services will be made available using an electronic format.