



21st Century Learning For All

Living Sky School Division No. 202

Virtual (Online) Learning Kindergarten—Grade 12

LSSD Virtual is expanding its online learning programming to accommodate families who choose at-home learning experience for their student.

For the 2020-21 school year, the Living Sky School Division is offering K-12 curriculum online.

- Online programming is developed and delivered by Living Sky teachers and is at no cost to families.
- K-9 instruction will centre around: English language arts, mathematics curricula. Outcomes from science, social science, health education, arts education, and physical education will be addressed through project-based learning.
- Grades 10 to 12 students can choose from a selection of courses in order to achieve their high school diploma. Elective courses will be determined depending on student registration and interest.
- Students who enroll full-time in LSSD Virtual will still be registered through their physical school. However, the primary contact for the student will be their virtual teacher(s). Report cards will be issued through LSSD Virtual and parents will have access to the LSKY parent portal to view their student's engagement data and grades.
- Families who have students with intensive supports or who are currently enrolled in special education programs would still receive services from their school's student service teachers, as well as division supports if required.
- Virtual classrooms will be comparable in size and composition to other elementary classes in the division but will include students from a variety of schools. The exact composition of the virtual classrooms will be based on enrolment.
- Students in Grades 10-12 will use Blackboard or google classroom as their learning management system.
- K-9 students will use Google Classroom and/or Seesaw.



QUESTION AND ANSWERS

1. Can my child start in the virtual program and move back to the physical school (or vice versa?)

We encourage parents to weigh the decision to enroll in online school very carefully. Virtual learning requires strong parental support, including active involvement on a daily basis for students in grades K-4, and then careful monitoring of your student in grades 5-9. While some students thrive in an online environment, others learn best in the classroom. You know your children and their needs and we trust that you will make the best decision possible.

Should you determine that it is best to switch from virtual to physical school (or vice versa) during the school year, it will be necessary to work with your base school administrator, along with your child's online teacher, to determine the best timing for transition. Care and attention to this process will help to minimize the potential disruption for your student.

2. How is virtual school this fall different from the work the students were given in the spring when schools closed?

Online learning in the spring was emergency optional learning. Education this fall is mandatory learning and our virtual learning offerings are in response to family needs. We also have now had time to train and plan allowing us to offer engaging online learning with a focus on 21st century skill development and opportunities for students to explore personal areas of interest and passion.

3. Will virtual classes run all day long? What is the schedule?

Learning from a distance is never the same as being present in a physical classroom for live instruction, in the company of other students. However, when carefully designed, online learning can incorporate social interaction and connections, individualized learning and one-to-one time with a teacher, rich learning resources and 21st century skills.

- *For approximately 150 minutes per day, students will participate in real time learning, in a combination of large group, small group, and individual online sessions. Elementary teachers will be available for support during the rest of the school day.*

- *During the remainder of the school day, students will*
 - *spend independent time in their virtual classroom watching instructional videos, completing assignments, or working on projects.*
 - *Collaborate with other students.*
 - *Participate in “unplugged” learning, including physical activity, outdoor pursuits, artwork or writing projects.*

*The K-9 program will be designed for these diverse modes of learning to occur throughout the course of a school day. **Daily and weekly schedules will be provided.***

For high school students, most of the classes will be delivered asynchronously (meaning that the learning materials, including tasks, videos, readings, practice, and projects, are found in the google or moodle classroom,) Students would work throughout the school day, but would have choice and autonomy as to their pace and path through these courses. Teacher contact will be in the form of large group, small group or individual online sessions.

*On the other hand, some high school classes will be delivered synchronously, which means in real time with a scheduled daily period. **Once all registrations are in, a high school timetable will be determined, including synchronous class times and contact hours for asynchronous instruction.***

4. Will my student receive report cards, have school pictures and be in the yearbook for their base school? Will they pay school fees?

Although you will continue to be on the email list for your base school, your primary association will be with your teacher and classmates in your online school community. There will be no school fees, but please stay in touch with your school principal about things like purchasing a yearbook. Report cards will be issued by the virtual school.

LSSD Virtual will explore some innovative ways to showcase students to create a unique school culture and climate, and sense of belonging.

Student-led conferences will be conducted virtually using teleconferencing software. Students will display their achievements through a digital portfolio.

5. What devices are provided?

When the enrolment commitment/enrolment form is filled in, please note any device requirements in the comment sections. Once your enrolment is received and reviewed, you will be contacted to discuss device and connectivity needs.

6. If a child is unable to attend for specific days due to illness or other commitments (farm student assisting with harvest) how do we alert the online educator(s)? Is attendance still recorded through the school?

Any absences will be communicated to your virtual (online) teacher who will record the absence. Your teacher will let you know the best way to communicate (ie. through email).

7. What can be expected for students that need additional support such as speech therapy, OT or to meet with the school counsellor?

Referrals will go through your home (base) school in consultation with the virtual teacher. Once the referral is completed and sent to Central Office, it will be prioritized.

8. I know Kindergarten is a play-based curriculum. How will play be addressed in a virtual setting?

Virtual Kindergarten will look different than in-school play-based learning. Activities and learning opportunities will be hosted online for families to work through with their children. Some support will be given from an online teacher.

9. What is the difference between online learning at home and home schooling?

Virtual (online) learning at home is guided by a teacher. Home schooling is an independent approach to teaching and learning at home. The schooling of children is based out of your home and parents are the teacher. For more information about home schooling, please call 306-937-7702.

In-School Learning Questions:

10. Can you explain more about how the “blended learning model” will look in the classroom for this year?

Blended learning will allow for students who are away for a short period of time (ie. due to illness) to continue learning the outcomes their classmates would be learning at school. Please connect with your child’s classroom teacher to have further discussions about blended learning.

11. How will in-school Kindergarten look different this year? Will my child still be able to play?

Play-based learning allows children to develop holistically. PreK & K classrooms will continue to offer play-based learning with guidelines to ensure safety.

12. Will supports (Speech, Occupational Therapy, Counselling) be face to face or virtual (asking regarding students attending school in person)? Will parents be able to physically be part of meetings with the counsellor?

*Interactions will be face to face with all necessary safety protocol (ie. masks, shields, plexi)
Counselling sessions are between the student and counsellor only.*

13. For students in their senior year, what is the school going to do regarding information about post-secondary. In previous years the whole grade 12 year seemed to offer different tours, talks and information. Can parents expect anything to be offered to our children?

We will continue to provide opportunities for students to learn more about post-secondary education. Schools will have further conversations with post-secondary partners to find out exactly what those opportunities will be and will communicate to students and families during the school year.

We encourage students to can continue to explore careers and post-secondary training using Xello. Students can log in with their lsky e-mail and password to view thousands of occupations at xello.lskysd.ca

On Tuesday, September 1st we will be releasing two more videos to answer your questions about health and safety in schools including questions regarding masks, classroom sizes, cohorts, CoVid symptoms, isolation rooms, etc. Stay tuned