

September 4, 2020

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school for a safe start to the 2020-2021 school year.

The Lambton Kent District School Board has established a Virtual Learn at Home Secondary School for students participating in Learn at Home instruction. The Virtual Learn at Home Secondary School has a dedicated Principal and staff to ensure appropriate supports and programming for students.

Students who choose Learn at Home will be engaged in remote learning five days per week. Learn at Home courses will not be associated with student home schools, but rather with the LKDSB Virtual Learn at Home Secondary School.

While students are enrolled in the LKDSB Virtual Learn at Home, they will not be able to enter the school premises or participate in school activities. Whenever possible, staff from the students' home school will stay connected with students.

Please note: Parents/guardians will have limited opportunities within the school year to switch their child's school experience between face-to-face instruction and Learn at Home instruction (or vice versa). Families must notify the school in advance and there may be a waiting period prior to their child's admission to school, depending on scheduling and availability of classroom space.

### **Learn at Home Schedule**

The first day of school for all Virtual Learn at Home Secondary School students is Monday, September 14.

The school day will be:

- 8:20 – 11:00 a.m. – Instructional/Learning Time (including a 10 minute break)
- 11:00 – 11:50 a.m. – Lunch
- 11:50 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Instructional/Learning Time (including a ten minute break)

Please note: Student attendance will be taken daily.

### **Course Schedules**

Learn at Home will operate in quadesters. The school year will be divided into four blocks of approximately 44 days of instruction. Students will participate in one period per day, alternating weeks for two periods of their timetable, rather than the usual four periods per day over a full semester. In total, students will take eight courses per year in the quadester approach, the same number of courses as in a traditional semestered approach.

Please note: Teachers will email students the week of September 8 to introduce themselves and let students know the courses they have for the first quadester. First quadester courses were selected based on the course requests that the student made in the spring.

Students will have an opportunity to confirm their course selections for quadesters two through four in October and November. See the [Course Calendar](#) for a list of courses being offered.

Quadmester 1 is tentatively set for September 8-November 13 (including exams). Students will participate for the full day in two classes – Course A and Course B – in alternating weeks, beginning with Course A the week of September 14. Note: Should conditions change secondary scheduling may be revised.

Please refer to the [Reopening Our Schools](#) plan for the tentative quadmester dates and a sample schedule for Quadmester 1 courses.

Note: Once students were removed from their home school timetable they lost the seat in that class. Should students wish to return to face-to-face learning there is no guarantee that they will be able to get their original timetable.

### **Access to LKDSB IT Devices**

Should your child require access to an IT device to support Learn at Home instruction, please contact your home school.

### **Moving Between Learn at Home and Face-to-Face Instruction**

Families wishing to transfer between face-to-face learning to Learn at Home or transfer from Learn at Home to face-to-face instruction must contact their principal according to the following timelines:

- Fall date: Families notify school by October 22. Student begins new program type on November 16.
- Winter date: Families notify school by January 12. Student begins new program type on February 3.
- Spring date: Families notify school by March 30. Student begins new program type on April 20.

Students moving between program delivery choice (i.e. face-to-face learning or Learn at Home) should anticipate changes in teacher(s). If space is available, the LKDSB will attempt to accommodate all requests sooner than the dates above; however, this will vary from school-to-school and grade-by-grade and may not be possible. Transportation delays may also occur.

Please note: Parents/guardians will have limited opportunities within the school year to switch their child's school experience between face-to-face instruction and Learn at Home instruction (or vice versa).

### **Special Education Staff Support**

Additional information about Special Education staff support is available in the [Reopening Our Schools](#) plan. Should you have any specific questions about your child, please follow-up with the school.

### **Individual Education Plan**

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Individual Education Plan (IEP) and Plan of Care for students will be reviewed and updated in consultation with families and school staff as we begin the 2020-2021 school year. Parents and guardians can expect to receive an updated IEP and/or Plan of Care. If parents and/or guardians have any questions or concerns, please contact our Resource Teacher Cari Fisher.

**Mental Health**

As a result of the time away from the school setting, we understand that students may be struggling with mental health concerns, such as anxiety and depression. Families are encouraged to contact their school team to discuss their child's transition back to the school setting. For additional resources, please access information at:  
<https://www.lkdsb.net/Board/Community/MentalHealth/>

**Reopening Our Schools Plan**

For additional information about the LKDSB's Reopening Our Schools Plan, please visit the [LKDSB website](#).

For additional information about the Virtual Learn at Home Secondary School, please check our [website](#) over the next few days as more information and updates are provided.

We look forward to a safe and welcoming start to the 2020-2021 school year. Should you have any specific questions about your child or Learn at Home, please contact me at [paul.wiersma@lkdsb.net](mailto:paul.wiersma@lkdsb.net).

Sincerely,



Paul Wiersma  
Principal  
Virtual Learn at Home Secondary School  
Lambton Kent District School Board  
[paul.wiersma@lkdsb.net](mailto:paul.wiersma@lkdsb.net)