

Home Based School

March 2026



shutterstock.com - 1922968586

A Message from Principal Holbrow

I find it so easy to get swept up in the Olympics. It's intriguing to me that at the start of February, I had little interest in the Milan Cortina Games, yet now that they've concluded, I find myself missing them. Sports I rarely watch during the four-year interval—like luge relay, long-distance speed skating, and snowboard cross—suddenly became "must-watch" television, alongside my usual favourites like hockey and curling.



The Olympics always raises the question of how we measure success. Is the "top" country the one with the most total medals, or the one with the most gold? What about the fourth-place finishes that don't count toward the final tally? Or the competitors who achieved personal bests but received no public recognition?

Success is relative. It is different for every athlete, just as it is for every student in our school. Even among our highest achievers, the criteria for success varies. A few years ago, depending on which metrics we used to calculate Grade 12 averages, three different students were recognized as having the "highest" average.

Furthermore, the students with the highest grades aren't always the most inspiring. Often, the real triumphs belong to the student who completed all of their courses to graduate, the one who fought

hard for a 65% in Math 30-2, or the student who met every deadline despite facing a personal "uphill" year.

In these Olympics, one gold medalist stood out to me: Lucas Pinheiro Braathen. By winning gold for Brazil, he became the only South American to medal this year—and, in fact, the first South American in history to ever win a Winter Olympic medal. I hope Brazil feels immense pride in him, and that he serves as an inspiration for athletes across South America to dream of the podium. Unfortunately, it often takes a long time for students to stop comparing themselves to their peers. It takes time to realize that the only criteria that truly matter are the ones they set for themselves—the ones that open the doors they want to walk through.

At Outreach, I truly value that we meet with students individually to hear their goals and define what success looks like for them. To all our students: we are proud of you. We will happily put you on the podium for doing your best and for reaching the goals that you have determined will make you a success.

Mr. Holbrow
Principal

dates to Remember

Put This On Your Calendar...

2025-2026 School Year

March 8 Daylight Savings Time

March 9 **PD Day - No School for students**

March 17 St. Patrick's Day

March 17 Cooking Connections - Jr. High Event

March 19 Event Day! Pysanka Decorating

March 27 **Last Day before Spring Break**

Spring Break March 28 - April 5



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

PRESENTING...



Junior High
COOKING
CONNECTIONS

MARCH 17, 2026
1:30pm-2:30pm

Are you in grade 7-9?
Do you love to cook?
Do you want to learn new cooking skills?
If you answered: YES. to all the above **Read More and Sign Up**; for our very first **Cooking Connections!**



<https://forms.gle/ic9G66WE7toqMXSM6>

Looking forward to connecting and cooking!!!

Parent Directed and Shared Responsibility Mid Year Meetings

Hi Parent Directed and Shared Responsibility Families,
Great news! We are on our way to the mid-way point in the school year. The second semester starts February 2!

If you have not yet booked your Mid-Year meeting please

We are excited to hear about how things have gone so far this year and how your plans for the rest of the year are looking. Please book a meeting with us for your mid-point meeting. The meetings can be online meets, but if you prefer to come in-person we can arrange a meeting at the school. The meetings take about half an hour per student. If you have multiple students please plan accordingly.

Please add items to your child's google drive work sample folder 2 days prior to your meeting.

What to upload to the work samples folder:

- Samples of the AWESOME stuff your student has been doing
- A project your student is proud of (a story they wrote, a science experiment etc...)
- Anything else you would like to show off!
- Please add samples of student work and photos to your file.

You will need to access the drive with a gmail account. If you need your gmail account linked to the work samples folder, please let me know the email and I can help. Students must use

their Black Gold Login information. Please call or email me if you need help with login information.

Please call or email some dates that work for you and we will get you scheduled in. Mrs. Andersen works in the morning for Home-Based School from 9:00 am to 11:30 am
Looking forward to hearing from you.

780-929-5784

Alberta Education Survey

If you were selected to participate in the government survey (mostly parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10, but others may have received the notice as well), please take the time to fill it out.

We use the information provided in the survey to work on improving our school. We would like to have as much information as possible.

Deadline: March 6

Alberta
Education
Assurance
Survey

Alberta



Services We Offer

For Students:

- Group Therapy
- Furry Foundations
- Individual Counselling
- Pen Paw Pal Program
- Volunteer Experience
- Animal or Nature Yoga
- Fur Fun Days (Field Trips)
- Skill Building Day Camps
- Recreation Day Camps
- Work Experience

For Faculty:

- Corporate Team Buildings
- Individual or Group Counselling
- Certification in Animal Assisted Education



dreamcatcher™
nature assisted therapy

780.809.1047 ext. 1
info@dreamcatcherassociation.com
53044 RR #213, Ardrossan, AB

Dreamcatcher™ offers a unique range of services designed to support student wellbeing, personal growth, and skill development through nature and animal-assisted services.

We have a variety of therapeutic and experiential learning services for students and faculty available, please see the attached flyer for a full list of our services.

These programs provide students with meaningful connections to nature and animals while building social-emotional skills, resilience, and confidence in a supportive, engaging environment.

Ayla Ramos

Volunteer for Dreamcatcher Nature Assisted Therapy

info@dreamcatcherassociation.com

www.dreamcatcherassociation.com



Looking for a fun summer experience?
Join the Beaumont Agricultural Society
Youth Committee this summer!
For Ages 14 to 22!

Come to our Youth Info Nights!
Held in the evenings, at the beginning of the month in February, March, & April.

- * Snacks
- * Games
- * Prizes
- * Info about our program

Opportunities Include:

- * Youth Market Farm
- * Youth Committee
- * Work Experience Event
- * Volunteer Experience
- * Even more, decided by you!

Scan the QR code for access to our Linktree for more info and to sign up for our Youth Info Nights!



Interested?
Email Elin Engen at: volunteer@beaumontagsociety.com
Instagram: @badasyouth
Facebook: Beaumont & District Agricultural Society



LESSONS FOR KIDS

[Best Lessons for Kids in Edmonton & Area](#)

Check this out!



Your School's Digital Library



School's Out? Reading is IN!
How much can YOU read?

How to find Digital Resources?

On the Library homepage, use the dropdown to select preferred format



Search by title, author or topic, and embark on your digital reading adventure!

Did you know...

- You can borrow any ebook or audiobook using any device **ANYTIME, 24/7**. Just log in with your student account!
 - There are 5000 different ebooks to choose from, and 1412 different audiobooks!
 - Ebooks and audiobooks will **NEVER** be late! Automatic returns on item due dates.
 - Ebooks will have this icon 
 - Audiobooks will have this icon 
- Ask your **librarian** for help!
Visit destiny.blackgold.ca for access!

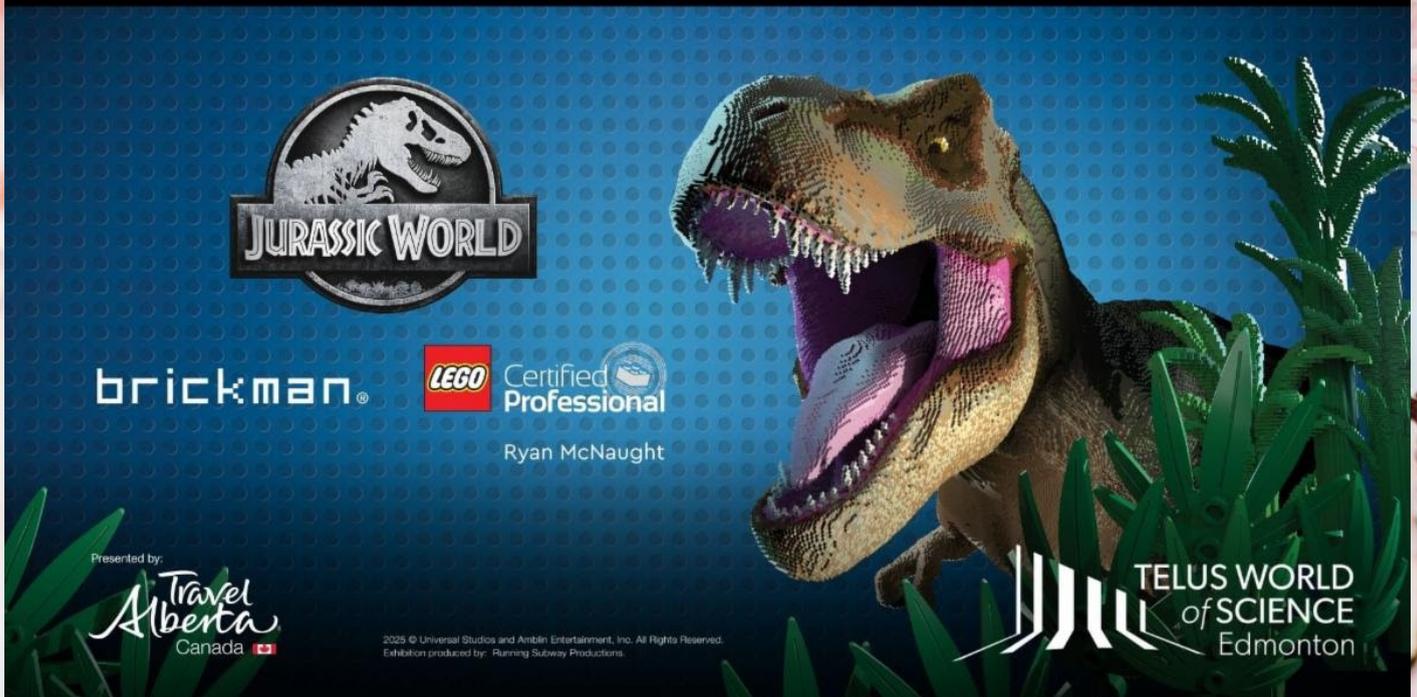
dogs!

A SCIENCE TAIL exhibition

OPENS MAY 2



AN ADVENTURE 6 MILLION LEGO® BRICKS IN THE MAKING



Whether your child is into sports, science, drama, dance, gymnastics, nature, or technology, there is an extracurricular option in Edmonton & Area to fit their unique interests! We are hunting for the BEST Lessons and classes for Kids to add to our list and share with your family. Our goal is to help keep your kids active and engaged throughout the school year by trying something new or getting back to a beloved activity!

[Best Lessons for Kids in Edmonton & Area](#)



March Home Based Event

Thursday, March 19 from 1:30 - 3:00

Discover the ancient Ukrainian tradition of **Pysanky**—the art of "writing" on eggs! More than just a craft, these eggs are symbols of new life and legendary family traditions passed down through generations.



Students will need to bring a container (yogurt container, small tupperware etc) to carefully transport their egg home.

Link: <https://forms.gle/YbrnWm7FPpv7U39v5>

This event is open to Gr 1-9 ONLY.

HOME LEARNING

Teacher Directed Moodle Classroom

We will be utilizing our Moodle Capacity this year. Students and parents are required to watch the Moodle Tutorial video below. Please familiarize yourself with the video. The Moodle Site can only be access with the student's Blackgold account. It is the same log-in credentials that you use to check your Blackgold email (same username and password). You can access all of your materials digitally, watch video tutorials, and scan in your work all by using Moodle.

Website <https://moodle.blackgold.ca/> . We will also be requesting that work submitted digitally (scanned or pdfs) be uploaded through the Moodle dropboxes. Instructions are found in each Moodle course. Please don't hesitate to ask for help!

How to use Moodle to Submit your Assignments.

First, download a free version of Adobe Scan free from the App Store.

Watch a quick tutorial here: [Adobe Scan Tutorial](#)

Then, go to your Black Gold Moodle at: <https://moodle.blackgold.ca/>

Log in with your BGSD login and password.

Here is a quick tutorial to watch: [Moodle Video](#)

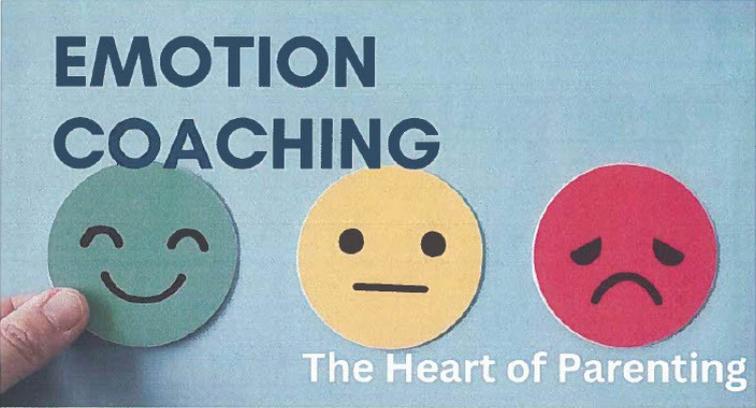
Remember, we have already added you to your classes. If you are missing a class, email Mrs. Andersen at nicole.andersen@blackgold.ca.

You will be looking for the “Dropboxes” in the menu. That is where you will upload your assignments.

For example, “**Assignment 1A**” goes in the “**Assignment 1A Dropbox**”.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE UPLOADING THE CORRECT ASSIGNMENT IN THE CORRECT DROPBOX

Please note your teacher will enroll you in the courses - you are NOT required to self enroll - ignore that part in the video.



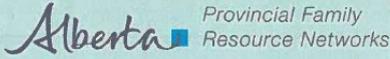
EMOTION COACHING

The Heart of Parenting

Did you know that helping a child understand, express and manage their emotions is one of the most impactful things you can do for their future success in all areas of life?

Join us online for this two-session workshop, where parents and caregivers of children 0-12 years old, will explore the Gottman Institute’s five step method for building children’s emotional intelligence.

Date: March 18th & 25th, 2026
Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Location: Online
To register visit Leduc.ca/FRN or use the QR code
For more information email FRN@Leduc.ca



Health & Wellness

KISEWATISIWIN



CREE WORDS

KINDNESS - **KISEWATISIWIN** (KISS-SAY-WAH-TIH-SOH-WIN)

RESPECT - **KIHCHHEYHTAKOSIWIN** (KEY-CHAY-TAH-KOH-SOH -WIN)

PINK - **WÂPIKWANIWINÂKWAN** (WAH PIH KWAH NEE WIN NAH KWUN)

HEART - **MITIY** (MIH-TAY)

FRIEND - **WICHEWAKAN** (WEE CHAY WAH KUN)

LOVE - **SAKIHITOWIN** (SAH-KEY-TOH-WIN)

TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER - **MANACIHITOWIN** (MAH NAH CHI TOH WIN)



WE ARE KIND

Kickstand

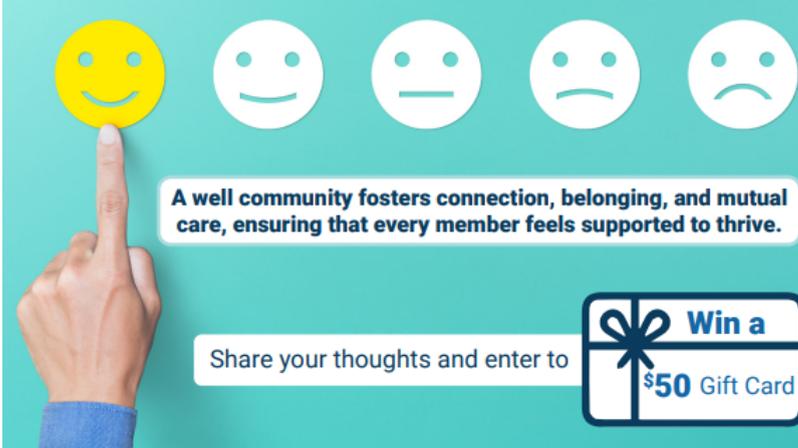
Kickstand Connect is a virtual walk-in clinic for Albertans aged 11-25 (but they said their age range is soft; kids will not be denied if they are older or younger than that). Their services are provided by Alberta-certified providers, and there is NO COST associated with them.



There is NO limit to how many times a kid can access the walk-in services; they will be directed to further support if their needs are more intensive. This program has a TON of connections to other mental health support programs in the province.

<https://mykickstand.ca/connect/>

Community Wellness in Leduc



A well community fosters connection, belonging, and mutual care, ensuring that every member feels supported to thrive.

Share your thoughts and enter to **Win a \$50 Gift Card**



Your feedback will help inform future initiatives and programs related to community wellness.

Tell us about your experiences, concerns and ideas about community well-being, connection and belonging in Leduc.



Complete the survey before August 31, 2025 and be entered for a chance to win a \$50 Walmart gift card.



Leduc County Family Resource Network (FRN)

Leduc County Family Resource Network (FRN) offers permanent drop-in hours at its two facilities, located in Devon and Thorsby.

All families are welcome to drop in and join FRN staff for:

- coffee and snacks
- resources and referrals
- monthly prize draws
- free Wi-Fi and computer use
- games and crafts
- programs and supports

FRN facility locations

Devon: 5 Jasper Court in the Old Robina Baker School

- Open Mondays from 2 to 8 p.m.

Thorsby: 4711 48 Ave. in the modular building across from the Arctic Spas Recreation Complex

- Open Tuesdays from 2 to 8 p.m.
- Open Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please note: drop-in hours will be closed when school busses are not running.

For more information, contact Leduc County FRN at 780-979-2385 or frn@leduc-county.com

INDIGENOUS NEWS

tânsi | abawashded | wotziye | boozhoo | taanishi | oki

Please take some time to read the [Newsletter](#) prepared each month by our division Indigenous Coordinator Michael Swampy.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Events

Crescendo Music Studios

We're excited to provide **homeschool families with a significant discount** on daytime music lessons at our studio! Families can take advantage of our new **Daytime Intro Pass** for only \$75 – regularly \$99 – which includes:

- 3 x 30-minute lessons **or**
- 2 x 45-minute lessons

Lessons can be booked **any time between 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM**, making it a perfect fit for homeschool schedules.

This is a great opportunity for students to explore music with our professional instructors in a supportive, creative, and fun environment. We offer piano, voice, guitar, drums, violin, and more –

CHALLENGER BASEBALL IS BACK!



DATES: SUNDAYS MAY 3 - JUNE 21
LOCATION: FOUR SEASON DIAMOND 2
TIME: 4-5 PM
COST: 40 PER ATHLETE



ATHLETES AGES: 5-17 YRS OLD
JOIN OUR TEAM!
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!



**REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN!**
SCAN HERE



ABOUT



Challenger Baseball is an adaptive baseball/softball program that empowers individuals living with physical and/or cognitive disabilities. In this program, baseball is used to enhance connection, courage, independence and love of physical activity.

Challenger is new programming we started last year in partnership with the Jays Care Foundation and we are hoping to grow in 2026. The program is for individuals living with physical and/or cognitive disabilities



Board Highlights

January 24, 2024

2026 Board Highlights can be found here: <https://www.blackgold.ca/board-highlights>

If you cannot access the Board Highlights from the links above, please view them from our website as follows:

- www.blackgold.ca
- Board
- Board Highlights



Board Highlights

January 21, 2026

Quarter 1 Financial Report

The Board of Trustees received the 2025-2026 Financial Report for September to December 2025, as presented.

City of Leduc Attendance Boundary Allocation – Fraser Neighbourhood

The Board of Trustees approved the designation of the Fraser development to East Elementary School (Grades K-6 English), École Corinthia Park School (Grades K-6 French Immersion), École Leduc Junior High School (Grades 7-9 English and French), and Leduc Composite High School (Grades 10-12 English and French).

City of Leduc Attendance Boundary Allocation – Andersen Neighbourhood

The Board of Trustees approved the designation of the Anderson development to Linsford Park School (K-6 English), École Leduc Estates School (Grades K-6 French Immersion), École Leduc Junior High School (Grades 7-9 English and French Immersion), and Leduc Composite High School (Grades 10-12 English and French Immersion).

Board Policy 7 – Board Operations

The Board of Trustees that the Board approve Board Policy 7 – Board Operations, as presented with the following amendments:

Section 12: change 'compensation' to 'honoraria' and add 'Any such adjustment will take effect on the same date as the increase provided for in the collective agreement for currently elected trustees'.

All Board Policies are available on the Black Gold website at www.blackgold.ca - Board – Board Policies

Calmar Secondary Collegiate School Celebrates Grand Opening

Trustees, government officials, division and school administrators, industry and community members, and students have celebrated the grand opening of a new addition to Calmar Collegiate Secondary School (CSCS).

The 5000-square-foot addition, and the equipment inside of it, will support skilled trades training for students.

You can read the full article on our website at www.blackgold.ca - News



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION UNDERWAY FOR 2026-27

blackgold.ca/kindergarten



*Don't forget to check out the Black Gold School Division Board of Trustees' [Advocacy webpage!](#)

STAFF DIRECTORY

The HBS Staff Contacts

All general inquiries, please email: hbs@blackgold.ca

School phone: 780-929-5784

Principal - Mr. David Holbrow - David.Holbrow@gshare.blackgold.ca

Assistant Principal - Mrs. Nicole Andersen - nicole.andersen@gshare.blackgold.ca

Secretary - Mrs. Jennifer Hay - jennifer.hay@gshare.blackgold.ca

Grades 1-6 & Personalized - Mrs. Marla Kniesel - marla.kniesel@gshare.blackgold.ca

Grades 7-9 - Mrs. Kristen Gilchrist - kristen.gilchrist@gshare.blackgold.ca

Curriculum Developer, Grades 7- 9 Social & ELA - Ms. Andrea Collins -

andrea.collins@gshare.blackgold.ca

Curriculum Developer, Grades 7- 9 Social & ELA - Mrs. Danielle Manchak -

danielle.manchak@gshare.blackgold.ca

Educational Assistant - Mrs. Kiran Shaikh kiran.shaikh@gshare.blackgold.ca

↓ Helpful Links ↓

[Come Visit Us](#)

[Home Based School Website](#)

[How to Use Moodle - Tutorial Video](#)

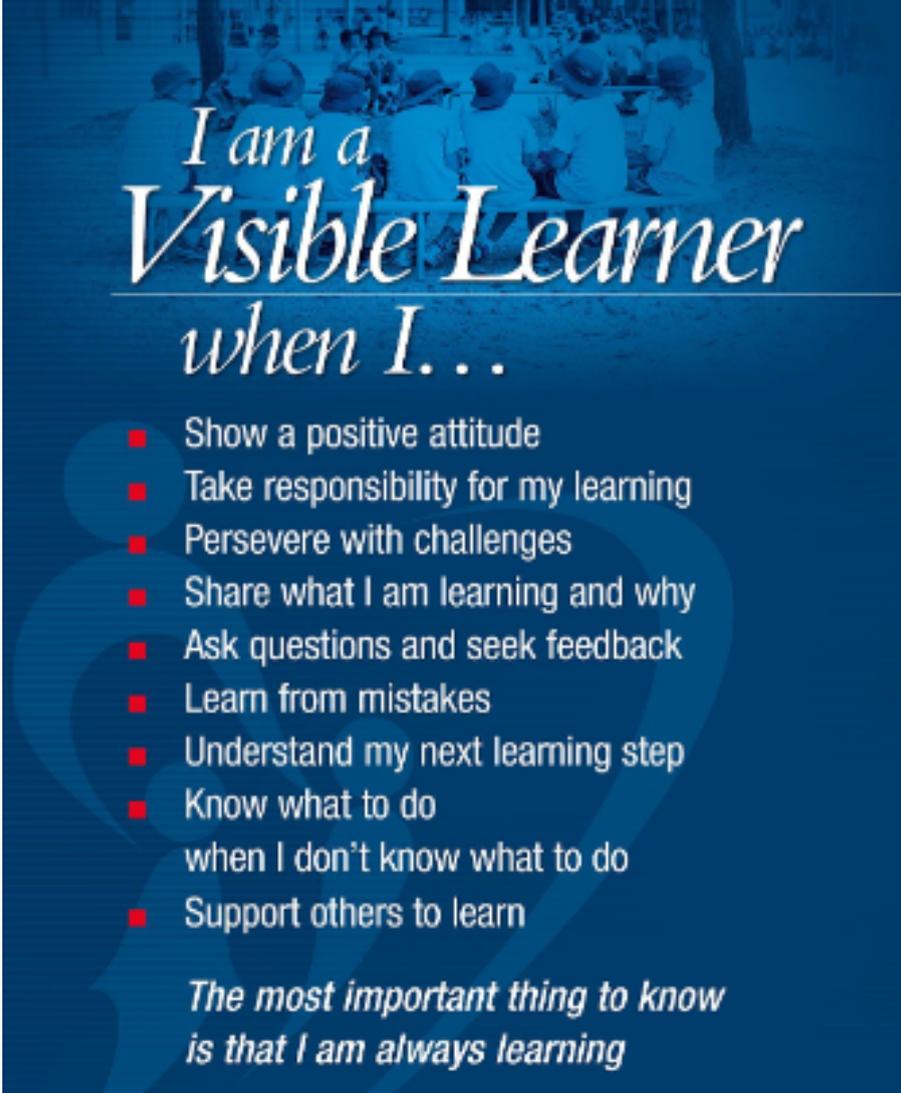
[Division School Calendars](#)

[School Handbook](#)

[Home Education Handbook](#)

[Parent Directed Reimbursement Information](#)

[Virtual Open House](#)



I am a *Visible Learner* when I...

- Show a positive attitude
- Take responsibility for my learning
- Persevere with challenges
- Share what I am learning and why
- Ask questions and seek feedback
- Learn from mistakes
- Understand my next learning step
- Know what to do
when I don't know what to do
- Support others to learn

*The most important thing to know
is that I am always learning*



Black Gold Home-Based School

Our Schools • Your Children • The Future



Black Gold is a leading school division in creating innovative programming to inspire and create success for students. Black Gold Home-Based School is committed to providing flexible learning options so every student can achieve. Home-Based education choices work in cooperation with students, parents and Black Gold Schools to ensure quality program planning and transition. Home-Based School provides opportunities for Parent-Directed or Teacher-Directed programs and is respectful of parent choice and collaboration. We believe to achieve their full potential, children must be the center of all decisions related to learning and provide course work online or in print in a variety of environments. Home-Based education allows for a personalized learning opportunity for students who require flexibility.



Nicole Andersen

Nicole is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters