

HOME BASED SCHOOL

October 2026



A Message from Principal Holbrow

Yesterday, I wasn't feeling well, so I stayed home. I'm not looking for sympathy, but I share this as context as to why I was thinking about how lucky I am. I have always felt extremely lucky. I feel like I was given a lot of opportunities as I grew up: joining band when I was 8 years old and discovering a life-long love of music, learning I have a skill in creative writing that led my desire to teach others, being able to connect and relate to other people and help them feel that someone else understands them, being encouraged by colleagues when I decided to move



into administration, finding friend groups who tease and support with the utmost of care. I've felt very lucky.

When I didn't feel able to come into work yesterday, I truly felt like I was missing out on something. I have gotten used to it in this job, to feel like I am missing something. It's the nature of leading two different sites of educators in Leduc and Beaumont. Whenever I am in one building, I wonder what is happening at the other site and when I am at the other school, I am missing something else.

The only reason why I feel like I am missing something is because we have such wonderful staff supporting your child through their education goals. Our teachers are not only experts in their field, but they have also crafted strategies for supporting students one on one, and work to find a way to get the best from the student while still making them feel supported, even through the difficult conversations. Our EAs work hard to make sure that our students feel watched over, feel that someone has their back, while still pushing the students to strive for more. Our secretaries are interrupted constantly while they try to meet their deadlines, but continue to do so with a smile on their faces, so that students know that someone really saw them today. The division support personnel continue to encourage us, meeting with students and families to give them the best opportunities that they can. All of this happens while the adults are making their own connections, to have fun moments, to share a good story together, to laugh and know that we are helping students who may not have always felt that someone wanted to help them.

Outreach and Home-Based are remarkable schools. We are lucky to have the support of Black Gold to ensure that students have options. We are lucky to have staff who recognize how important they are to help students take their next shot at education. We are lucky to have students who keep trying and don't give up on themselves.

I am lucky and I hate to miss a day.

Mr. Holbrow
Principal



The graphic features the word "dates" in a sans-serif font, where each letter is white and contained within a green circle. Below this, the words "to Remember" are written in a large, flowing, purple script font. The "to" is smaller and positioned between the "dates" and "Remember".

Put This On Your Calendar...

2026-202 School Year

Sept. 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Schools Closed

Oct. 12 Thanksgiving - Schools Closed
Oct. 13 PD Day - Schools Closed for Students
Oct. 26 Home Based Event - STEM Lego 1:00 - 2:15
October 31 - HALLOWEEN!



School Council

Stay tuned for the next meeting date.

Home Based Events

October

October's event will be STEM Lego!

Monday, October 26 from 1-2:15pm

This is open to students in Gr 1-9.



e2 Young Engineers uses LEGO building blocks to provide STEM learning opportunities. During this hands-on workshop, students will develop building skills while learning to create a model using LEGO kits.

IMPORTANT to add: Every student who attends this event will automatically have their name entered into a draw to win 4 tickets to an Edmonton Oil Kings game this November 4 against Lethbridge Hurricanes. We will be selecting two lucky winners at the end of the event. Come enjoy the fun of building with lego and a chance to walk away with a fantastic family night out!

Link: <https://forms.gle/vdPCeSANWLKznoV8A>

September Event



Meet Our Counsellor

We have a counsellor available for digital appointments Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please feel free to access her through the QR code or call the school to book an appointment,

Counsellor
✦ BOOKINGS
A V A I L A B L E

Scan and book with our counsellor, Rory



Fun Facts!

Halloween Edition

- Fun Facts About Pumpkins

- **Turnip ancestors:** Long ago in Ireland, people did not carve pumpkins. They carved scary faces into **turnips** and potatoes instead!
- **Fruit power:** Pumpkins are not vegetables. They are actually a **fruit** because they grow from flowers and have seeds inside.
- **Giant squash:** The biggest pumpkin ever grown weighed a massive 2,749 pounds—that is heavier than a small car!

Wild Facts About Candy and Treats

- **Chicken feed:** Candy corn was invented in the 1800s and was first called "**chicken feed**".
- **Space chocolate:** M&Ms were made during World War II so that soldiers could eat chocolate that **would not melt** in their hands or pockets.
- **Mom and Dad tax:** A funny survey showed that over 80 percent of parents secretly **steal candy** from their kids' trick-or-treat bags!

Teen Skill Building Programs

STELLARA THERAPY CO.

Small group virtual programs designed to help teens (13–17 years of age) build emotional regulation, confidence, and practical coping skills for every day life and school challenges.

Program Details:

- Format: Virtual small group sessions
- Group size: Min. 4 and max. 8
- Program length: 6 weeks
- Session time: 60 minutes

Stellara Teen Skills Lab

A 6 week skills program helping teens understand emotions and develop tools to manage anxiety, stress, and relationships.

Teens will learn:

- Understanding emotions and stress responses
- Skills for managing anxiety and overwhelm
- Challenging negative self talk
- Healthy communication and boundaries
- Confidence and self-compassion skills
- Practical coping tools for everyday stress

Ideal for teens who:

- Feel anxious or overwhelmed
- Struggle with confidence or self-criticism
- Have difficulty managing emotions
- Want stronger coping skills for stress and relationships



About the facilitator
Alyssa Cole, MACP
Alyssa works with teens experiencing anxiety, ADHD, ASD, BPD, trauma, and emotional regulation challenges. Her approach is trauma-informed and focused on helping teens develop coping skills and confidence.

STELLARA THERAPY CO.

Stellara Executive Function Lab

A 6 week skills program focused on helping teens develop focus, organization, and planning strategies.

Teens will learn:

- How the ADHD and executive functioning brain works
- Strategies to start tasks and reduce procrastination
- Time awareness and planning tools
- Emotional regulation during academic stress
- Creating a personal focus and organization system

Ideal for teens who:

- Struggle with organization or missed assignments
- Procrastinate on school work
- Feel overwhelmed with academic demand
- Have ADHD or executive functioning challenges

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

Email: info@stellaratherapy.com
Website: stellaratherapyco.ca
Registration form link:
<https://form.jotform.com/260634994531059>
Program Costs: \$240 with options to upgrade



PROJECT GLOW

STELLARA THERAPY CO.

A 6-WEEK GROUP PROGRAM DESIGNED TO
HELP TEEN GIRLS BUILD CONFIDENCE,
EMOTIONAL SKILLS, AND SELF-WORTH IN A
NUTURING & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.



STELLARA
THERAPY
CO.



PROGRAM DETAILS:

- FORMAT: VIRTUAL SMALL GROUPS
- GROUP SIZE: MIN. 4 AND MAX. 8
- PROGRAM LENGTH: 6 WEEKS
- SESSION TIME: 60 MINUTES
- AGE: FOR 13 TO 17 YEAR OLDS

PROJECT GLOW SUPPORTS WITH:

- BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND POSITIVE SELF-IMAGE
- DEVELOPING HEALTHY BOUNDARIES & RELATIONSHIPS
- MANAGING STRESS, COMPARISON, AND PEER PRESSURE
- IDENTITY EXPLORATION & INNER STRENGTH
- LEARNING COPING TOOLS FOR EVERYDAY CHALLENGES

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION:

Email: info@stellaratherapy.com

Website: stellaratherapyco.ca

Registration form link:

<https://form.jotform.com/260634994531059>

Program Cost: \$240

New Resource to Consider!

Black Gold has switched from Destiny to Sora!



Sora

The student reading app

Download books for
offline access

Read Anytime, Anywhere

Enhance Vocabulary

Improve Literary Skills

Get Started with Sora: Your Digital Library

Setting Up Sora



Install and Locate

Download Sora from app stores or visit soraapp.com, then select Black Gold School Division.



Sign In and Borrow

Log in to browse the collection and borrow a book to start reading immediately.



Literacy Boost

Listening to audiobooks within the app enhances vocabulary and improves overall literacy skills.

Managing Your Library



Control Your Loans

Use the Options menu to renew or return books and track your current shelf.



Expand Your Access

Add the Yellowhead Regional Library to your account to browse a larger selection of titles.



How Chalky Works

A structured reading journey for school and home.



How it works

1



Reading Practice

More opportunities to read independently and build fluency through regular practice.

2



Comprehension

Guided questions encourage students to think about what they read and strengthen understanding.

3



Vocabulary

Students encounter new words in context, with vocabulary above their reading level highlighted and explained in simple terms.

4



Daily Writing

Daily writing tasks connected to reading, evaluated against grade-level writing skills. Families receive instant feedback and actionable insights.

How Does a New Family Use Chalky?

1



Make a student account

Create the student profile and select their grade, make a unique 4 digit PIN for your child

2



Build the reading plan

Use our recommended booklists, or build your own!

3



Review your plan for the semester

See how the plan supports grade-level reading skills and standards.

4



Your child reads on Chalky

Your child will complete their daily learning on the student dashboard

5



View learning feedback and insights

Actionable insights, home learning records, well-documented growth, all in one place!

chalkyai.com



Canadian
Home Education
Resources

CanadianHomeEducation.com

What's new at CHER?

Lots and lots and lots!

Looking for the newest homeschool curriculum from our exceptional suppliers? Hoping to find fresh resources that elevate your educational journey? At CHER we have been busy gathering exciting options for you to peruse.

We are proud to offer the largest variety of homeschool resources in Canada. Our goal is to provide this extensive selection with the intention of supporting and enriching your learning experience in every way that we can.

Visit our website to see what new-to-CHER resources we have recently added to support you and your family. Is there a product that we don't carry but you think we should? Let us know! We would love to share your favorite resource with others in the homeschooling community.

Check this out!



LESSONS FOR KIDS

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](#)



HOMESCHOOLING



HOME LEARNING

Parent Directed

Reimbursement Procedures

Information on reimbursement procedures will be sent out by Mrs. Hay in mid-October. You can also access information in our school handbook regarding procedures, what is covered, what needs to be on the receipt, and so forth.

Reminder - Forms must be fully complete and receipts must meet all of the criteria in order to be processed and paid out. Onsite printing of receipts will not be available at the school and there will be limited assistance depending on the time of year in completing the forms so please ensure they are correct prior to submission.

We want to ensure all of our families receive timely reimbursement of eligible expenses so please let us know ahead of time if you have questions.

Work Samples Folders

All work samples folders have been set up and instructions sent out by Mrs. Hay. This is your friendly reminder to please take pictures of your student(s) as they complete school tasks, on field trips, completed examples of their work, and other things they would like to share and upload this into their folders on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to avoid losing photos.

We are looking forward to seeing the great things you are doing with your student! Please upload items to the Work Samples Folder for your Parent Directed or Shared Responsibility Program. Uploading frequently can make it less of a task.

Items that can be uploaded to the folder:

Photos

Worksheets

Completed work

IXL or other online learning app progress reports

Things to show what your student has been learning that are in your Home Education Plan.

Items can be uploaded weekly, monthly, and throughout the year. Items will be reviewed during the mid-year and year end meetings with Mrs. Ansersen.

Thanks in advance for showing off all of the great things you are doing with your student! We are looking forward to seeing it all.

If there are any questions, please reach out.

Teacher Directed

Course Materials on Google Classroom

Along with the printed materials that you will receive from the school, other course materials will be accessible through Google Classroom. Once teachers have received confirmation that your child has been added to their classes, the student will receive an invitation to join the Google Classroom with these added materials. Parents will also have access to see what their child accesses through Google Classroom. Please use the Black Gold Engaging Students web page to access student courses. Here is the link to the website to access Google Classroom and the Black Gold Student email. <https://engagingstudents.gshare.blackgold.ca/>

To access the student email, click on the colourful M

When logging into the student email, please make sure that the email used ends with @gshare.blackgold.ca

To reach the classroom, please click on the green chalkboard.

Please don't hesitate to ask for help!



Engaging Students

Engaging Students

Blended Course List

[🔗 engagingstudents.gshare.blackgold.ca](https://engagingstudents.gshare.blackgold.ca)

Health & Wellness

KISEWATISIWIN



CREE WORDS

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

RESPECT - **KIHCHYEIHTAKOSIWIN** (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)

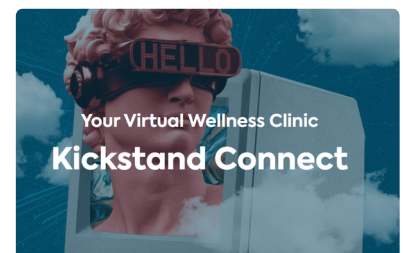
WE ARE KIND



Wellbeing

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/>

Jack.org

Jack.org is a Canadian youth mental health organization dedicated to ensuring young people feel supported throughout their mental

jack.org

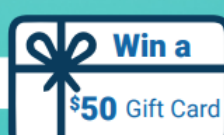
health journey. Our work focuses on early intervention, helping prevent crises before they happen by equipping youth and the adults who support them with practical knowledge and skills.



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 

 **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.

Indigenous News

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.

Cree Word of the Month:
tapahtêyimowin Humility

[Words of wisdom shared by Betty Simon, from Maskwacis AB. Translation here](#)

Humility is to know yourself as a sacred part of creation.

We feel humbled when we understand our relationship with creation

Never think that we are more important than anyone

We are not above or below others in the circle of life

Learn from mistakes, change for the better

Work on creating your self esteem

We will lose ourselves when we do not live in humility

It is humbling to be poor

Freedom from pride and arrogance

Not to continually talk of past achievements, you have not done enough if you must

Always be humble and strive for excellence

Humility is to live your life free from arrogance, to not be boastful, and to have a modest sense of your own worth

"We are just a strand in the web of life" and we respect and value life

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Events

Beaumont

October 3 @ 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Beaumont Fire Hall 5010 52 Ave, Beaumont, Alberta, Canada

Join Beaumont Fire Services for some free, family-friendly fun at the annual Fire Prevention Open House on Saturday, October 3, from 11 am to 1 pm at the Beaumont Fire Hall! This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Charge Into Fire Safety: Safe Charging is a Superpower."





Haunted House
RECOMMENDED AGE 12+

Vendor Market & Food Trucks

LOCATION:
BEAUMONT AND DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
24358 TWP RD 505

BEAUMONT'S GRIMWOOD ACRES
PRESENTED BY THE 50+ CLUB

23TH & 24TH OR 30TH & 31ST

LOCATION:
BEAUMONT AND DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
24358 TWP RD 505
(BADAS GROUNDS)

OCTOBER
6PM-10PM

TICKETS HERE




Managing Anxiety and Stress

Learn to identify the signs of stress and anxiety to learn practical coping strategies for school pressure, social anxiety, and overwhelming thoughts. What is "normal" stress and when to do I ask for help will also occur

Thursday, October 22 | 4-6pm

@ the Chantal Berube Youth Centre (5202 50 ST Beaumont)

Registration Required: youthcentre@beaumont.ab.ca

Teen Programs

AT THE LEDUC PUBLIC LIBRARY

FREE • REGISTERED

New Driver Learner's Test Study Group

Don't let your wallet take a detour! Each attempt at the driver's test costs money - so study smart! Join us for a fun, brain-boosting session using Alberta Driver's Flash Cards to help you retain key info and pass your permit test. We'll have pastries and hot chocolate!

Thursday, Sept. 10 | 5:30 - 7:30pm | Grade 8-12

Craft Café: Collage Lab

Turn magazines, paper, photos, and found materials into a unique work of art. Cut, layer, and create whatever inspires you - there's no right or wrong way to collage. All supplies provided. Enjoy Hot chocolate and cookies.

Thursday, Sept. 17 | 5:45 - 7:15pm | Grades 7-12

Craft Cafe: Open Studio

Come in and get creative! We'll provide a variety of craft supplies and materials—what you make is entirely up to you. Explore, experiment, and let your imagination lead the way. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies.

Thursday, Nov. 19 | 5:45 - 7:15pm | Grades 7-12

Craft Cafe: Holiday Village House

Spend an evening creating, relaxing, and getting into the holiday spirit. Express your creativity and create a holiday décor piece you'll be proud to display. Teens will decorate wooden mini houses using paint, embellishments, and festive materials while enjoying hot chocolate, cookies, and a relaxed social atmosphere.

Thursday, Dec. 3 | 5:45 - 7:15pm | Grades 7-12

Teen Toastmasters

The library is partnering with the Leduc Blackgold Toastmasters to help you build confidence and communication skills in a fun and supportive environment! If you want to improve your leadership skills or just conquer stage fright, this 6-week program is for you!

Thursday, Oct. 1 - Nov. 5 (6 weeks) | 5:30 - 7:30pm | Grades 7-12

*Please visit our program guide at
www.leduclibrary.ca
for more programs for all ages*



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

September 2, 2026

2026-2027 Off-Campus Education Program

The Board of Trustees approved the involvement of Black Gold School Division in the Off-Campus Education Program (Work Study, Work Experience, Registered Apprenticeship Program, Green Certificate, Knowledge and Employability Workplace Readiness and Workplace Practicum) for the 2026-27 school year.

More information about the Off-Campus Education Program as well as other programming offered by Black Gold School Division can be found on our website www.blackgold.ca - Schools - School Programs .

Bill 25 Update

Superintendent Borgfjord and Associate Superintendent Dargis provided an update on the preparations the Division has made to address the changes required by Bill 25 - An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms.

Double Routing Transportation Processes

Associate Superintendent Volkman provided information on the double routing transportation process the Division uses in urban communities to maximize available transportation resources.

More information about Transportation in Black Gold School Division can be found on our website www.blackgold.ca - Transportation.

Complexity Teams and Class Size Reduction Update

Associate Superintendent Cable provided an update on the implementation and impact of the Complexity Teams and the Class Size Reduction funding across Division schools.

Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA)

The Board of Trustees congratulated Trustee Klaassen on her appointment to the Board of Directors for CSBA.



Photo from the CSBA website

Canadian Association of School System Administrators (CASSA)

The Board of Trustees congratulated Superintendent Borgfjord for receiving the CASSA Distinguished Service Award.



Black Gold Preschool and Junior Kindergarten Programming

Black Gold School Division is accepting requests for free development screenings for our Early Intervention Preschool / Pre-K, and our Junior Kindergarten program that serves children learning English as an additional language.

Visit our website www.blackgold.ca/pre-kindergarten for more information

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 1-5 - Mrs. Marla Kniesel - marla.kniesel@gshare.blackgold.ca

Grades 6-9 - Mrs. Kristen Gilchrist - kristen.gilchrist@gshare.blackgold.ca

Curriculum Developer, Grades 7- 9 Social & ELA - Mrs. Danielle Manchak-Conroy - danielle.manchak@gshare.blackgold.ca

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

↓ Helpful Links ↓

[Come Visit Us](#)

[Home Based School Website](#)

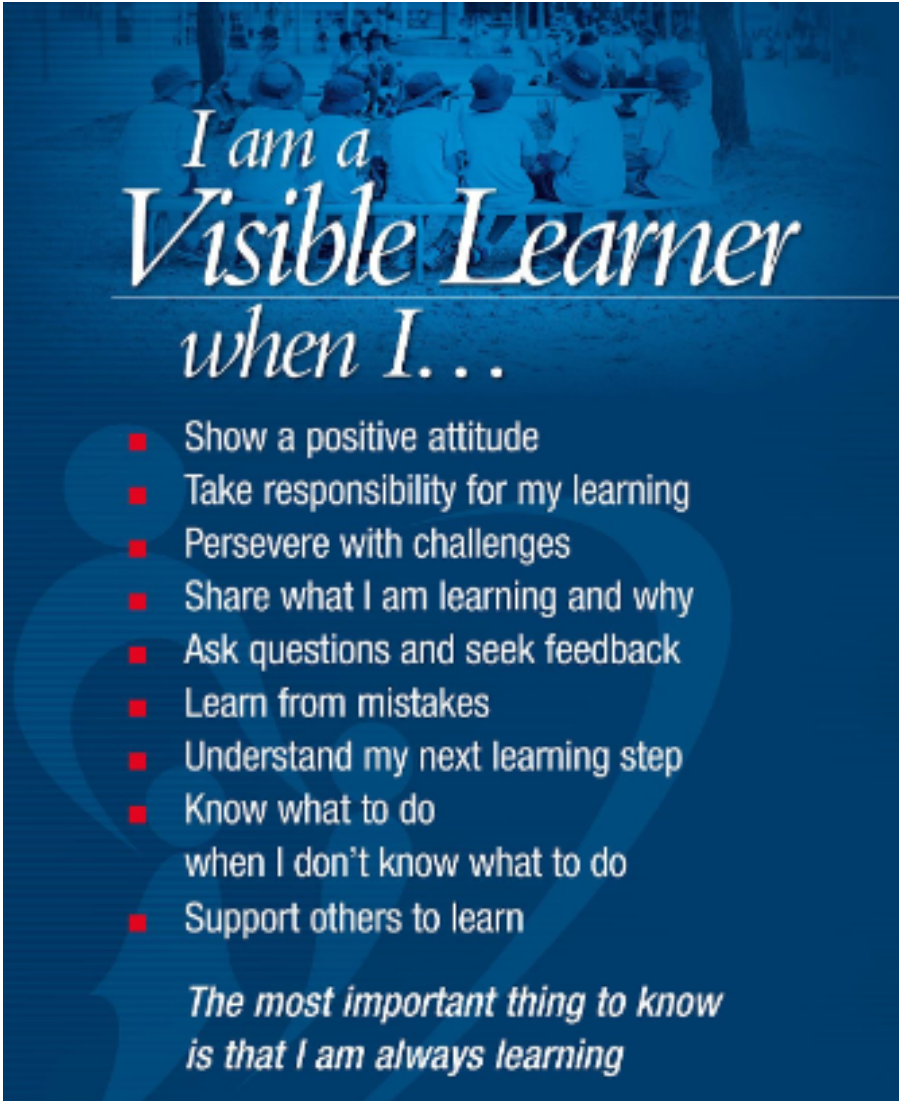
[Division School Calendars](#)

[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