

HOME BASED SCHOOL

September 2026



A Message from Principal Holbrow

Welcome back to Outreach and Home-Based Education! Of course, I enjoy the summer holidays, but I truly do enjoy the first days back when we get to see our colleagues again and get to meet the students who are eager to learn and make a difference this year. Let's see what you can do! We have some new people who are going to be available to support our students on their quest for knowledge.

In the Leduc campus, Mr. Dykstra is an assistant principal and is teaching junior high. Mr. Hennink is teaching high school Social Studies and English. Ms. Welsh is a new educational assistant helping our senior high students.

Home-Based welcomes Mrs. Manchak back who joined us last February to teach the junior high Social Studies and English Language Arts. She will also be developing new resources for the new junior high Social Studies curriculum. Joining her in the development project is Mrs. MacGregor who will be developing resources for the junior high Math. They are wonderful and welcome additions to our team. Please say hi to these people when you come into the building.



Mr. Holbrow
Principal

dates to Remember

Put This On Your Calendar...

2026-2027 School Year

School re-opens Aug. 27

Sept. 7 Labour Day - Schools Closed

Sept. 15 @ 6:00 pm. Welcome Back & Meet The Staff BBQ for Outreach and Home Based Families

Sept. 18 PD Day - School closed for students

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



Meet the staff BBQ

BBQ

WELCOME BACK

04:00 PM
6:00 PM

09/15/2026

BLACK GOLD OUTREACH
HOME BASED SCHOOL



Home Based Events

October

Stay Tuned!

Fun Fact!

Back to School Edition

School Supplies

- **Eraser history:** Before real erasers were invented, students used rolled-up pieces of white bread to rub away graphite marks.
- **Pencil power:** An average wooden pencil can write roughly 45,000 words or draw a line 35 miles long.
- **Glue stick design:** Modern glue sticks were actually modeled after the twist-up design of lipstick.
- **Crayon factory:** Crayola manufactures nearly 3 billion crayons every single year—that breaks down to about 12 million a day.

School History & Traditions

- **Oldest school:** The Shishi High School in Chengdu, China, first opened its doors way back in 194 AD.
- **Summer break:** Long summer breaks started because rural children needed to stay home to help plant crops in the spring and harvest them in the fall.
- **Apples for teachers:** Giving an apple to a teacher started in 16th-century Denmark when parents paid poor educators with food instead of cash.

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!



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!

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.



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](#)



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

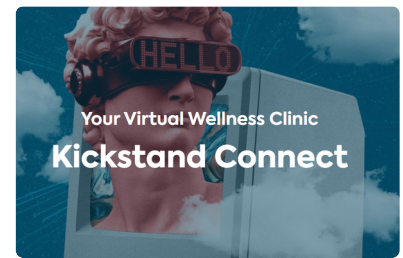
Please note your teacher will enroll you in the courses - you are NOT required to self enroll - ignore that part in the video.

Health & Wellness



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 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.

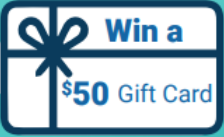
jack.org



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.

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

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

May 27, 2026

2026-2027 Budget Report
The Board of Trustees approved the 2026-2027 Budget Report for Black Gold School Division, as presented.

The 2026-2027 Budget Report can be found on the Black Gold Website at: <https://www.blackgold.ca/results-plans-results>.

Annual Education Plan
The Board of Trustees accepted the Black Gold School Division 2026-2029 Education Plan as presented, for submission to Alberta Education & Childcare, May 31, 2026.

The full plan can be viewed on the Black Gold website at: <https://www.blackgold.ca/results-plans-results>

Facilities Joint Use Agreement – Town of Devon
The Board of Trustees approved the Facilities Joint Use Agreement with the Town of Devon, as presented.

The agreement can be found attached to the Regular Board, May 27, 2026 Agenda at: <https://blackgold.civicweb.net/Portal/>

School Reserve Planning and Allocation Agreement - Town of Devon
The Board of Trustees approved the Joint Use and Planning Agreement with the Town of Devon, as presented.

The agreement can be found attached to the Regular Board, May 27, 2026 Agenda at: <https://blackgold.civicweb.net/Portal/>

École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High School Student Excursion
the Board of Trustees gives approval in principle for students and Black Gold employee supervisors from École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High School to travel to Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France from June 30, 2027, to July 9, 2027 (inclusive).

Board Evaluation
The Board of Trustees approved the 2025-2026 Board Evaluation Summary, as presented.

Notes from the evaluation can be found attached to the Regular Board, May 27, 2026 Agenda at: <https://blackgold.civicweb.net/Portal/>

Honouring Spirit Nominees
The Board of Trustees were pleased to host the Black Gold student Nominees for the Alberta School Board's Association's Honouring Spirit Award.

Cody Crier, Corbin Carwell, Noah Bernard, Hazel Smith, Vienna Swampy and Marissa Stassen were presented with certificates from the Board of Trustees and Alberta School Boards' Association and a framed print by Nakoda Artist, Keevin Rider. The nominees and their accompanying guests were then invited to stay for lunch as guests of the Board.



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](#)

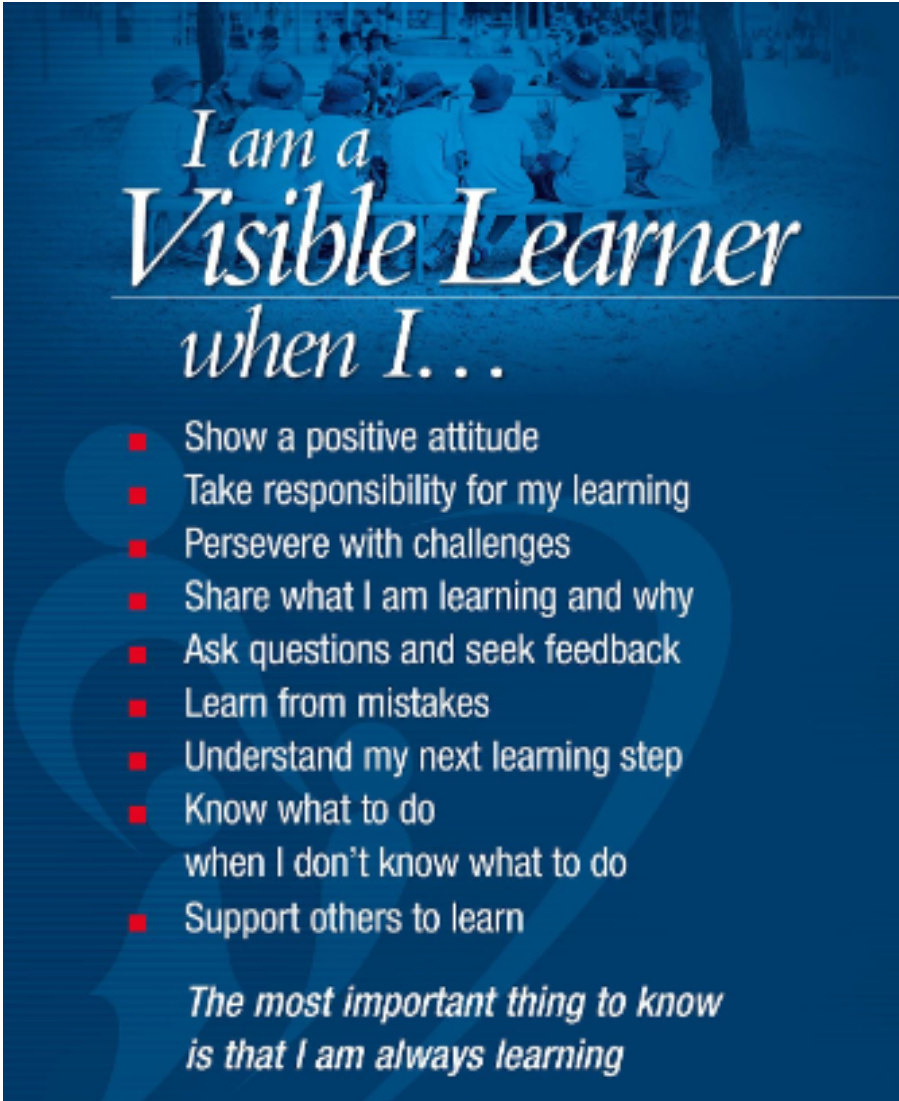
[Division School Calendars](#)

[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

