
Home Based School

April 2026



A Message from Principal Holbrow

I like to understand what others enjoy. When friends or family tell me about a show, a podcast, a tidbit of trivia that they thought was interesting, I want to learn more about it myself. Sometimes I don't succeed. Sometimes I don't get it. I know people have loved Grey's Anatomy, but I've tried it and did not see what others saw. Other shows, I understand the appeal, but it doesn't draw me in enough to keep watching, like Avatar.



Sometimes, despite best efforts, we get dragged into appreciating what others enjoy. Having grown up in Saskatchewan, I was always a fan of football, but never got into hockey. However, it is tough to be living near Edmonton and not become a fan of the Oilers.

At the dentist last week, the background music was a modern pop music station and I realized that I did not recognize a single song until about 25 minutes in. I'm obviously not aware of what is popular anymore. It is also tougher to know what is popular when there are so many sources available to watch, stream, etc.

I think it is important to continue to work on this. It's not about trying to remain current for the sake of being cool or trendy. It is about understanding, connecting, and appreciating those around me. Making a bond with someone over something positive and cultural helps make it easier when we need to have difficult conversations. It helps build empathy. It is a steady reminder that a person's taste is not their personality.

School, jobs, life can be hard at times, but understanding others, and feeling understood makes it easier. It can take work, like listening to Chinese opera, but when you get it, it is worth it. I know the staff here work to try to understand their students. It is one of the main reasons, when we meet new students, we ask them what they like to do outside of school.

I want to encourage the students to continue working to build that connection with your teachers. Alternative education can make that challenging, but it will help students succeed with their work, too.

Mr. Holbrow
Principal

dates to Remember

Put This On Your Calendar...

2025-2026 School Year

Spring Break March 28 - April 5

April 6 Easter Monday

April 7 School resumes

April 23 Electric Car Event



Cooking Connections

Thank you to Ms. Collins and Mrs. Gilchrist for organizing the first Cooking Connections afternoon! We hope it will be the first of many.



April Home Based Event

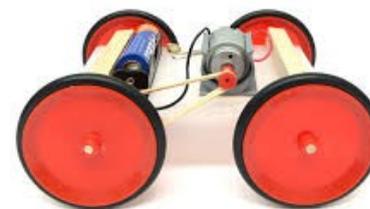
Thursday, April 23 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

ELECTRIC CARS!

Students will get to keep their car!

Grades 1-6 ONLY. Capped at 12. Form will close on **April 20** or if we reach the number of participants, whichever comes first.

This activity will start right on time and we would LOVE to see every student immersed in the entire activity so please be sure to drop them off **PROMPTLY** at 1:00!



<https://forms.gle/W3ULvDffcv7fzbQC9>

March Event Photos



Home Education Wellbeing Lessons

Online video-based content to help you discuss mental health with your children

This resource will provide you with tools to support your children's mental health.

These online lessons are for children aged 5-18, and showcase documentary videos of real youth sharing stories of overcoming challenges.

These videos are followed by exercises to help you generate discussions with your children about wellbeing, resilience, and your own family values.



Watch this short introduction!

Benefits for your Family:

- Help your children build resilience
- Boost your children's self-esteem
- Give your children skills to overcome challenges

Topics Include:

- Worries, Anxiety & Resilience
- Frustration, Motivation, and Growth Mindset
- Friendship Challenges



My family has found great benefit from the Open Parachute resources. The material is laid out clearly and parents can create the pathway that they believe will work best for their child. The computer is handed off and the child works through the videos either with me sitting there, or on their own and we talk about it later. It has been a real blessing for our teenager suffering with anxiety... we're having really valuable conversations as a result of her now feeling she isn't alone and that there are some answers for her. Looking forward to utilizing the program more in the year ahead.

- WISDOM mom

Register for FREE Resources:*



optam.ly/AISCA

In Partnership with:



You are in the driver's seat! You determine which lessons your children access.

openparachute®

* We respect your privacy, we do not track or store your family's data!



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



FULL WEEK
\$175
 SHORT WEEKS
\$140



BGC
SUMMER
CAMP
2026

BGCLEDUC.COM

WEEK 1 (June 29 – July 3) 🚀 Space Week (closed July 1)
 WEEK 2 (July 6 – 10) 🌿 Nature Week
 WEEK 3 (July 13 – 17) 🍳 Cooking Week
 WEEK 4 (July 20 – 24) 🦋 Animal & Insect Week
 WEEK 5 (July 27 – 31) 📖 History Week
 WEEK 6 (August 4 – 7) 🔬 Science Week (Closed August 3)
 WEEK 7 (August 10 – 14) 🏠 Adventure & Discovery Week
 WEEK 8 (August 17 – 21) 🎪 Carnival Week




 LRC Site
 Linsford Site
 Willow Site
 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM



Campers will enjoy a variety of fun activities:

- Making new friends
- Outdoor adventures and games
- Indoor play and activities
- Swimming
- Park visits and playground time
- Creative arts and crafts
- Off-site field trips and community adventures
- Two healthy snacks provided each day

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





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/>

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

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 – all tailored to meet each learner's individual goals.

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



Anderson Boundary Update

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), Leduc Composite High School (Grades 10-12 French Immersion) and Ohpaho Secondary School (Grades 10-12 English).

Skills Canada Pre-Approval

The Board of Trustees granted final approval for the attendance of any BGSD student who qualifies for the Skills Canada National Competition to be held in Toronto, Ontario, May 28 & 29, 2026.

Eight Black Gold Schools Selected to Receive Complexity Teams

Black Gold School Division has learned the Government of Alberta will provide eight Complexity Teams, as a part of the Class Size and Complexity Grant, announced on February 12.

The province has selected the following BGSD schools to receive a Complexity Team:

- École Dansereau Meadows School
- West Haven Public School
- École Bellevue School
- École Corinthia Park School
- East Elementary School
- Willow Park School
- École Leduc Estates School
- École Horizon Heights School

Each team consists of one teacher and two educational assistants who will support the academic, behavioural, social, and emotional needs of students. Complexity teams will provide additional support to students and staff, helping ensure safe, supportive learning environments where all students can succeed.

Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

Black Gold's School Board and senior leaders are thankful to students, and parents / caregivers of students, for sharing their insights with the Division - about their experiences receiving additional supports in their learning journeys.

Board Chair Devonna Klaassen says, "Classroom complexity has become an increasingly important consideration throughout the province, and in our school division as well. We are thankful for the opportunity to have heard so many valuable insights."

Click here to read more about the stakeholder engagement underway in Black Gold:

www.blackgold.ca/news/black-gold-school-board-holds-stakeholder-engagement-sessions



Kindergarten registration is underway for both French Immersion and Regular programming. Learn more on our website at www.blackgold.ca/programs

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](#)

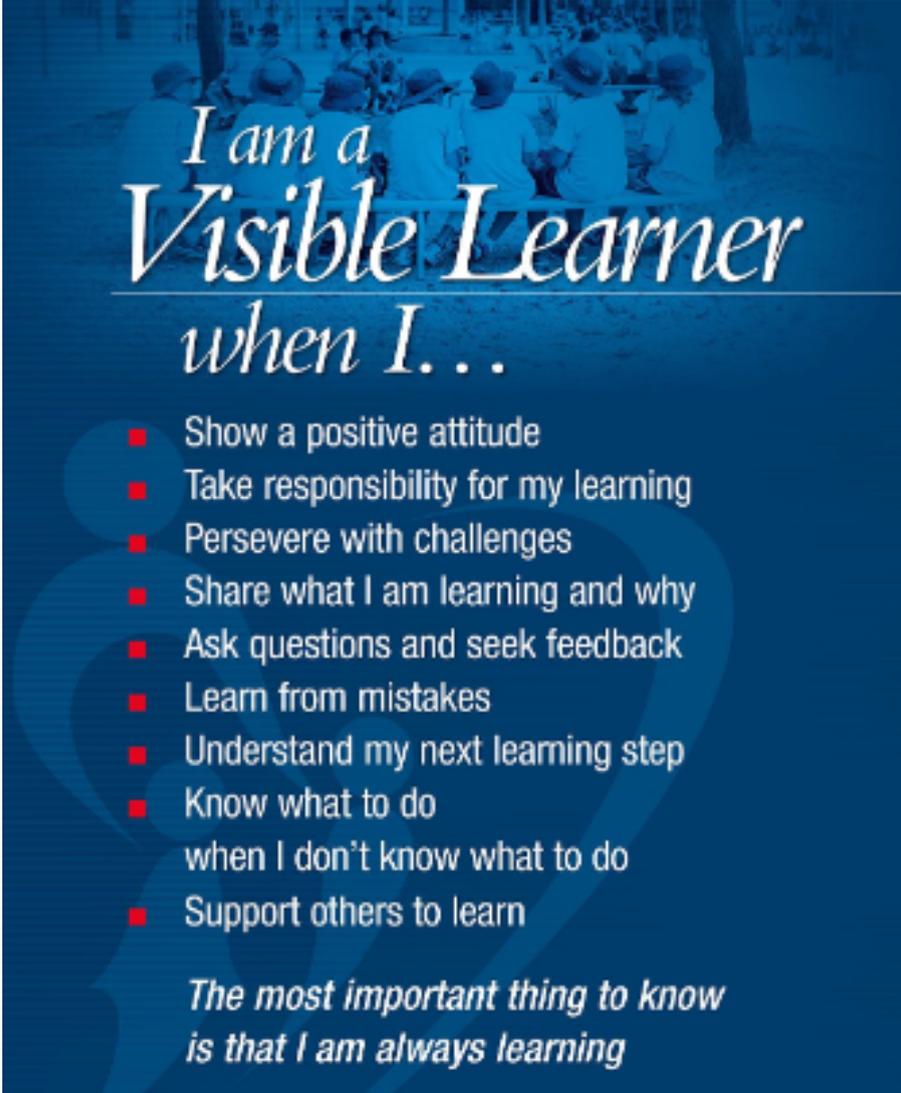
[Division School Calendars](#)

[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



Mission Statement

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