



Black Gold Home-Based School

Our Schools – Your Children – The Future

2026-27 SCHOOL HANDBOOK

School Events & Clubs

Home-Based School (HBS) strives to offer a few fun activities for our students throughout the year! These activities are optional and are free of cost to our students. Our activities fill up fast, so make sure you sign up for them right away. They are offered on a first-come-first-served basis. *Please watch the monthly Newsletters for the link to sign up.* Here is what we have planned this year:

October 26 - STEM LEGO (young engineers) 1:00-2:30

November 23 - Lino Printing 1:30-3:00

December 14 - Merry Making 1:00-2:30

January 11 - Hot Chocolate & Board Games 1:00-2:30

February 22 - Edison Robots - STEM 1:00-3:00

March 22 - Plant Life Cycle Gardening 1:00-2:30

April 23 - Tie Dye Item 1:00-2:30



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!

Weekly Connections



We know that one way to support student success in learning is to build connections. Each teacher will arrange a weekly connection with each student. Typically these will be Google Meets where students can ask questions, teachers can review marked assignments, etc. If a student needs more help than this connection time allows they can contact their teacher to arrange an additional meeting.



Tests & Exams



Junior High students are required to complete their tests and exams in-person at the school in Beaumont. These exams will happen after the module has been marked and students have received feedback. We have a variety of quiet spaces for students to write. Please **book a time with your teacher**, so we can have your test and writing space ready for when you arrive. The exam will be written at a time different from your regularly scheduled meeting block.

Additional Supports

Our school provides additional resources at no cost. If you are interested in accessing these, in addition to your supplied course materials, please contact the HBS Coordinator.

Reading Eggs → Online program that focuses on a core reading curriculum of phonics and sight words to improve reading success through interactive lessons & games (Ages 3 -7)



Reading Eggspress → Online program that works to improve spelling skills & reading comprehension through interactive lessons & games.(Ages 7-12)

IXL - Personalized digital learning space where students complete a diagnostic in math & ELA. Based on the diagnostic, IXL suggests skills for the student to work on. IXL provides questions, with examples & some videos. Students can also work through the Alberta Program of Studies connected activities.



Monthly Newsletter - Our monthly newsletter is sent at the beginning of each month and posted to our school website <https://hbs.blackgold.ca/>. Our newsletter lists local and school events and resources that families may be interested in.

Other Resources - Looking for other resources? We can help connect you with support through Alberta Health Services, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and others services.

Technical Requirements

What do you need to get started with Black Gold Home-Based School?

- High speed Internet Access
- A computer or chromebook (with speakers/microphone or headset)
- A printer and scanner are helpful, but not necessary. If you don't have a scanner you can use Adobe Scan App (free) on your phone.
- Any internet browser like Chrome, Firefox, Explore etc.

For more specific details check out our website: <https://hbs.blackgold.ca/parents/forms/>



Loaned Materials

We love to share our materials, but we also really love getting them back!
Please note: All items that are barcoded must be returned when the course is completed or at the end of the year.



Attendance Policy

Our school policy is based on the guidelines and regulations set out in Alberta's Education Act. Section 31 of the Act states that students have a responsibility to attend school regularly. In the Home-Based School (HBS) Teacher-Directed program, attendance is verified through **regular submission of school assignments and contact with teachers.**

Teacher Interventions:

Teachers will contact students and parents struggling to meet course assignment schedules.

- They will discuss barriers and some possible solutions.
- Solutions may include schedule and course re-adjustments, extra tutorials or other supports.

Administration Interventions:

If no assignments are submitted for 4 weeks (20 school days)

- 'Attendance Letter #1' is sent home from the school office to set up a meeting date/time.

Attendance meeting to create **Individualized Program & Attendance Plan**

- Discuss barriers and some possible solutions.
- Some solutions may include adjusting courses or schedules, providing additional academic support (extra tutorials, alternate assignments, etc.)
- Offering social/emotional support (Family School Liaison referral, school counselor, etc.).

If the Individualized Program & Attendance Plan is not followed:

- 'Attendance Letter #2' is sent home from the school office.
 - This letter asks for a meeting with all parties involved (teacher, admin, counselor, parents, students, etc.) - facilitated community conference.
 - The *Individualized Program & Attendance Plan* is looked at and discussed. An additional plan may be created. Case by case.
 - RCMP wellness check may be requested.
 - Contact with Child and Family Services will be assessed.
 - Discussion if BGSD Truancy Officer or OSAR is involved at this point.

School Contacts

School Phone: 780-929-5784

School Email: hbs@blackgold.ca

David Holbrow (Principal) david.holbrow@blackgold.ca

Nicole Andersen (Assistant Principal) nicole.andersen@blackgold.ca

Jennifer Hay (Secretary) jennifer.hay@blackgold.ca

Marla Kniesel (Teacher) marla.kniesel@blackgold.ca

Kristen Gilchrist (Teacher) kristen.gilchrist@blackgold.ca

Danielle Manchak-Conroy (Teacher) danielle.manchak@blackgold.ca

Kerri MacGregor (Curriculum Development) kerri.macgregor@blackgold.ca