

Home Based School

December 2026



A Message from Principal Holbrow

Mr. Holbrow
Principal



dates to Remember

Put This On Your Calendar...

2026-2027 School Year2026-2027 School Year
December 4 PD Day No School for students
December 14 - Festive Fun Event!
December 23 - Jan. 5 Winter Holiday Break



School Council

Stay tuned for the next meeting date.

Home Based Events

December Event

Link: https://forms.gle/G62ZSCqEgKcvcZPt8



Link will close on Dec 7.

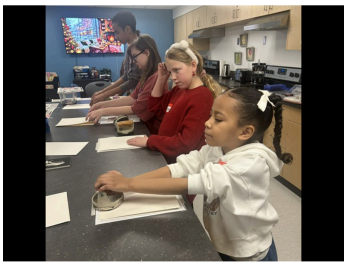
Event: Festive Fun
Event Date: Mon, Dec 14 from 1-2:30
Open to Gr 1-9

Bring the holiday spirit to life! Students are invited to join us for fun-filled festive activities:

- merry treats
- ornament
- hot chocolate & games

November 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

AVAILABLE

Scan and book with our counsellor, Rory

Fun Facts!

Christmas Edition

Global Traditions



- **Kentucky for Christmas:** In Japan, eating KFC fried chicken on Christmas has become a massive tradition, started by a clever marketing campaign in 1974.
- **Roller Skating to Mass:** On Christmas morning in Caracas, Venezuela, the streets are closed to cars so people can roller skate to church.
- **Spiderweb Ornaments:** In Ukraine, people decorate their trees with spiderwebs and spiders, which are considered symbols of good luck.
- **Icelandic Elves:** Instead of just one Santa, Iceland has **13 Yule Lads**—mischievous trolls or elves who visit children in the 13 days leading up to Christmas.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS





Where:
Eaglemont Christian Church
5002 62 St, Beaumont.

When:
Home Alone 2 - Dec. 4th @ 6:30pm

The Grinch - Dec. 11th @ 6:30pm

Register:
Scan the QR code

Or visit
Eaglemont.church/drive-in

WHEN BOOKING YOUR FREE TICKET PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TOWARDS THE LEDUC FOOD

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 practicical 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.



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 POSITVE SELF-IMAGE
- DEVELOPING HEALTHY BOUNDARIES & RELATIONSHIPS
- MANAGING STRES, COMPARSION, AND PEER PRESSURE
- IDENITITY 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

STELLARA THERAPY CO.

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.



CHER | 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!



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



Learning @ Home

Learning happens in all areas of a child's life—at school, at home, and in the community—and you play an important role in your child's education. When learning is based at home, the teacher maintains responsibility for key education decisions and assessment. By working with your child's teacher, you help to ensure that learning remains a priority.

Here are some strategies to help make learning at home a positive and fun experience!

Routines to Optimize Learning

Establishing a routine will reduce the stress caused by change and maintain a sense of security, stability and normalcy. When determining what works best for your family, stick to normal routines when possible while allowing for flexibility. Allow time to settle into a routine and develop healthy habits.

Create familiar routines for

- sleep, meals, chores, and other responsibilities
- learning and study time
- breaks, with time for relaxation and unplugging
- play and physical activity
- social connection (with family and friends)

Considerations when establishing a routine

- Do the regular bed and wake-up times allow my child to be rested?
- Is my child ready for the day? Are they dressed and in the right frame of mind for learning?
- When is the best time for my child to learn effectively? Does it include time to connect with their family, friends, teachers, and classmates?
- Does this include frequent breaks and physical activity? Are they getting outdoors?
- Does it balance emotional, intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual aspects of learning?
- Does this routine promote healthy habits? Is it manageable and flexible?

Routines do not have to mimic the school day and will look different for each family.

Spaces to Optimize Learning

Learning can occur in different places—both inside and outside of your home. To maximize your child's experience and inspire learning, dedicate a quiet and safe place. Also, provide space to allow for freedom of movement and creativity.

Create learning spaces with

- a work surface that is conducive to learning
- room for quiet and physical activities
- organized access to learning materials
- access to natural and/or suitable lighting
- reduced distractions
- access to appropriate technology

Considerations when creating learning spaces

- Does my child have a dedicated space for doing their work? Is there adequate lighting and space for their materials?
- Is the space organized so that books and supplies can be accessed and stored easily?
- Does my child have a space that is calming, inspires their learning, and removes distractions?
- Does my child have space to move around to ensure room for breaks and physical activity?
- Is there a shared space where my child can be supported in their learning and have access to any necessary technology or equipment?

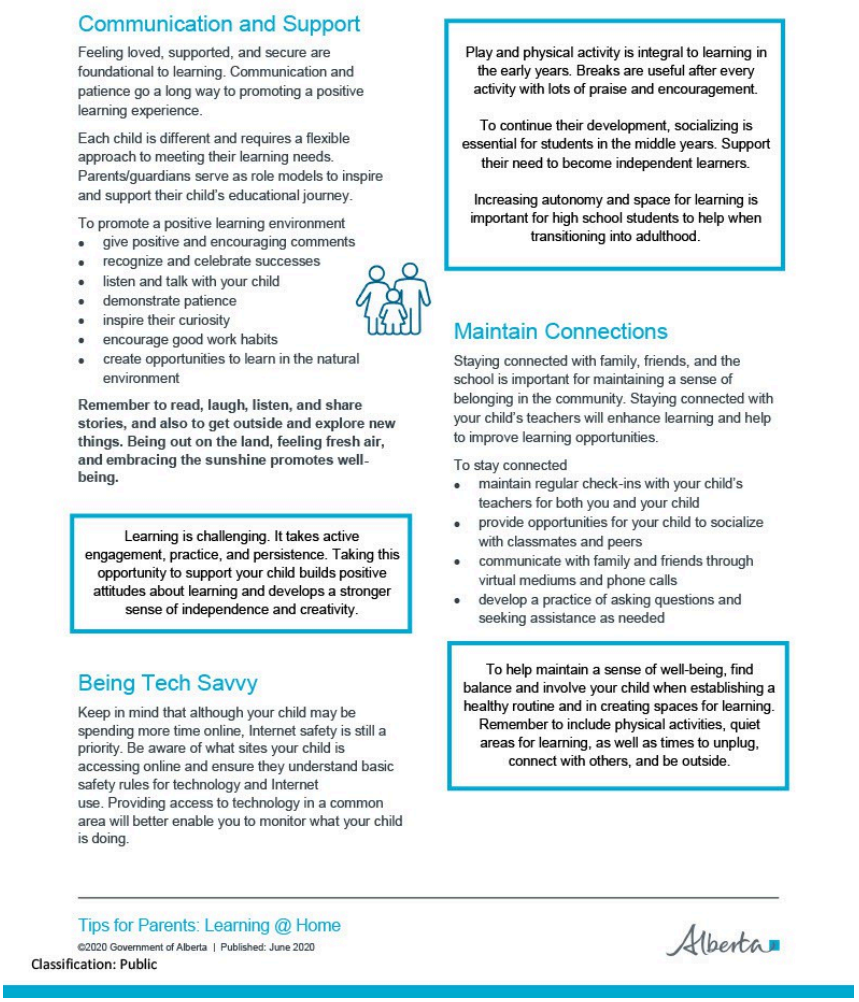
Spaces for learning do not have to mirror the classroom and will be different given that each home is unique.

Tips for Parents: Learning @ Home

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Alberta

Classification: Public



Communication and Support

Feeling loved, supported, and secure are foundational to learning. Communication and patience go a long way to promoting a positive learning experience.

Each child is different and requires a flexible approach to meeting their learning needs. Parents/guardians serve as role models to inspire and support their child's educational journey.

To promote a positive learning environment

- give positive and encouraging comments
- recognize and celebrate successes
- listen and talk with your child
- demonstrate patience
- inspire their curiosity
- encourage good work habits
- create opportunities to learn in the natural environment

Remember to read, laugh, listen, and share stories, and also to get outside and explore new things. Being out on the land, feeling fresh air, and embracing the sunshine promotes well-being.

Learning is challenging. It takes active engagement, practice, and persistence. Taking this opportunity to support your child builds positive attitudes about learning and develops a stronger sense of independence and creativity.

Being Tech Savvy

Keep in mind that although your child may be spending more time online, Internet safety is still a priority. Be aware of what sites your child is accessing online and ensure they understand basic safety rules for technology and Internet use. Providing access to technology in a common area will better enable you to monitor what your child is doing.

Play and physical activity is integral to learning in the early years. Breaks are useful after every activity with lots of praise and encouragement.

To continue their development, socializing is essential for students in the middle years. Support their need to become independent learners.

Increasing autonomy and space for learning is important for high school students to help when transitioning into adulthood.

Maintain Connections

Staying connected with family, friends, and the school is important for maintaining a sense of belonging in the community. Staying connected with your child's teachers will enhance learning and help to improve learning opportunities.

To stay connected

- maintain regular check-ins with your child's teachers for both you and your child
- provide opportunities for your child to socialize with classmates and peers
- communicate with family and friends through virtual mediums and phone calls
- develop a practice of asking questions and seeking assistance as needed

To help maintain a sense of well-being, find balance and involve your child when establishing a healthy routine and in creating spaces for learning. Remember to include physical activities, quiet areas for learning, as well as times to unplug, connect with others, and be outside.

Tips for Parents: Learning @ Home

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Parent Directed

Piano Lessons

My name is Marla Homan, and I'm the owner of Happy Hands Piano Academy.
We offer beginner-friendly online options for children and teens:
- Private piano lessons with personalized instruction and daytime availability.
- A self-paced beginner piano program that families can fit around their own schedules, with teacher support.

Our programs make it easy to include piano in your homeschool day, with flexible options to suit different ages, schedules, and learning styles.
happyhandspianoacademy.com



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 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

Health & Wellness



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 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.



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



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



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

October 28, 2026

Modular Classroom Requests

Administration made the following recommendation based on enrolment pressures and replacement of existing modular classrooms:

- two new modular classrooms at École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High School in the City of Beaumont to help ease enrolment pressures; and
- two replacement modular classrooms at École Horizon Heights School in the City of Beaumont to replace existing modular classrooms that are at the end of their service life.
- one replacement modular classroom at École Leduc Junior High School in the City of Leduc to replace an existing modular classroom that is at the end of its service life.

The Board of Trustees approved the 2027-2028 Modular Classroom Requests for submission to Alberta Education as presented.

École Champs Vallée School Excursion

The Board of Trustees granted approval in principle for students, staff and parent volunteers from École Champs Vallée School to travel to Québec and Ottawa from June 19-25, 2027 (inclusive).

Calmar Secondary Collegiate School Excursion

The Board of Trustees granted approval in principle for students, staff and parent volunteers from Calmar Secondary Collegiate School to travel to Amsterdam, Netherlands & Paris, France from November 6-13, 2027 (inclusive).

Board Policy 22

The Board of Trustees voted to adopt Board Policy 22 – Information Security.

Board Policy 22 ensures that the Division fulfills its dual legislative obligations to maintain public accountability and openness through the Access to Information Act (ATIA) while providing robust protection of personal privacy under the Protection of Privacy Act (POPA).

The full policy can be found on our website at https://www.blackgold.ca/board-policy-handbook

Policy 19 Update

The Policy Committee shared an update regarding the Policy 19 working group, which consists of parents, staff, trustees and administration. The group has met three times to update the policy in order to reflect the changes in the Education Act, as well as ensuring that it reflects the needs of our families, students and staff.

The recommendations will be shared with the Board at a later date.

Greetings from ATA Local 8

Kimberly St. Andre, ATA Local 8 President, brought greetings to the Board and spoke to challenges and successes on behalf of Black Gold teaching staff.

St. Andre also extended an invitation to the Board to attend the New Teacher Induction on April 22, 2027.

Aspiring Young Artists Recognition

The Board of Trustees recognized the winners of the Aspiring Young Artists competition that took place in June, 2026. The Board purchased artwork from Sharlaine Amit (Leduc Composite High School), Fara Wood (Leduc Composite High School), and Madalyn Hutzul (Ohpaho Secondary School). These pieces will be displayed in the Board Room at Black Gold's Division Office.

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



Come Visit Us

Home Based School Website

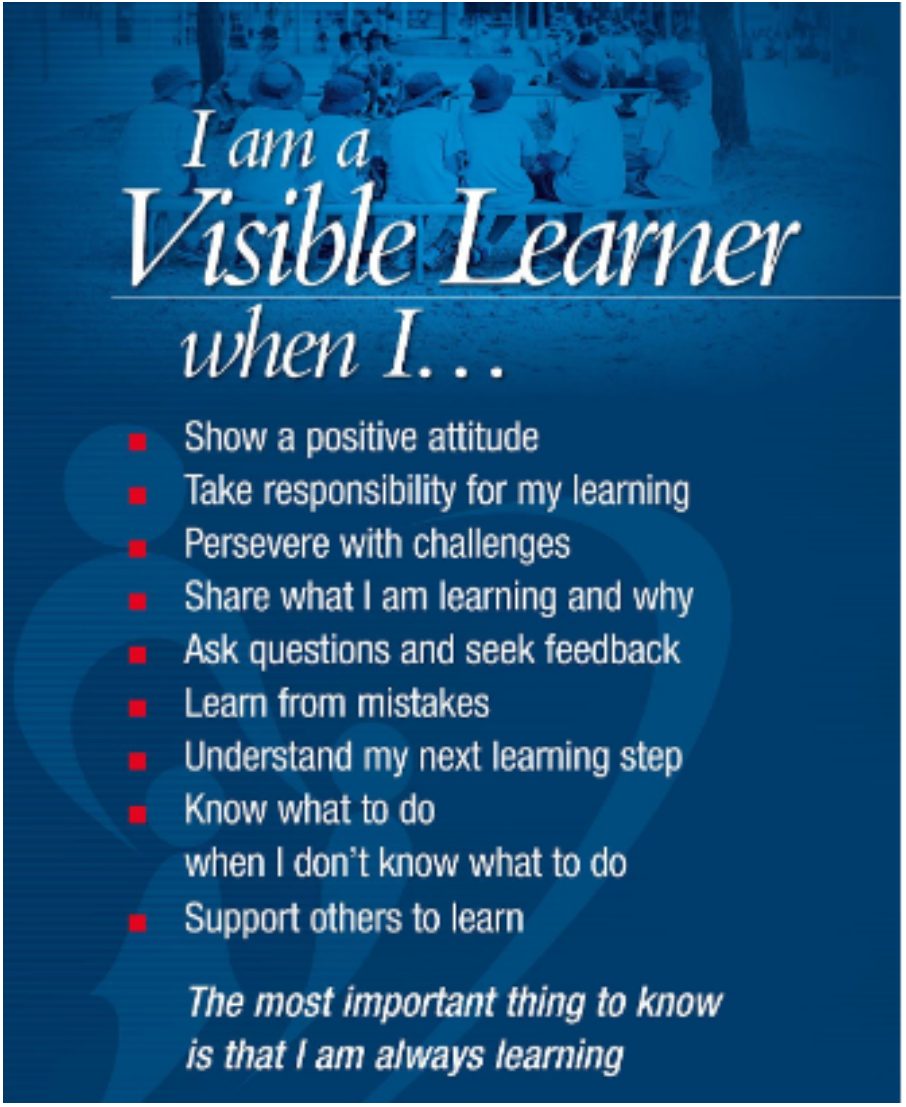
Division School Calendars

School Handbook

Home Education Handbook

Parent Directed Reimbursement Information

Virtual Open House



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