

Technical Requirements

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

Here's a helpful list of the hardware and software, and internet requirements you'll need to succeed in distance learning.

Minimum System Requirements

Below you will find a list of minimum technical requirements needed on your computer for maximum compatibility with our learning management system and associated software that we use.

Operating System

Microsoft Windows®, Vista, or Mac OS

Essential Hardware and/or Software

Most courses require the following items:

- **COMPUTER**- Families/students are responsible for providing their own computer systems to work on. If you are having difficulty with this please let us know.
- **HEADSET & MICROPHONE**- plug in versions are available at Dollarama for about \$4.
- **PRINTER**- many printers have a scanner as an Integrated feature also.
- **SCANNER** or a device/program that can create a PDF file or convert a photograph (JPG file) to a PDF ([Adobe Acrobat DC](#)).

A scanner or scanning app is essential for distance learning. The reason a scanner is so important is when student work is sent in as a photograph, it cannot be uploaded into the system for marking. Our education partners will send it back to you and this will slow down your child's progress.

There are many scanner apps available to download to your phone.

A few are listed below:

- [Adobe Scan](#) for Android
- [CamScanner](#) for iPhone
- [Apple Notes](#)
- [Scannable](#)
- [Genius Scan](#)

Web Browser

At least one of the following browsers required.

- [Google Chrome \(preferred browser\)](#)- Google is a free browser and every student in Black Gold has a Google account that includes a Google Drive, Classroom, Meet/Hangout, Sheets, Slides, Forms and read and Write for Google. These extensions are used by Black Gold and our course service providers. We ask as well that parents sign up for a free gmail account so that we can freely share documents and forms. We are happy to provide technical training for students and parents in this area.
- [Microsoft Internet Explorer® or Edge](#), [Mozilla Firefox](#), [Safari](#)

**Please note: Some browsers may not render content adequately depending on the plugins installed on individual computers or restrictions imposed on such by pop up blockers, virus scanners or firewalls.*

Software

- If you use the Google platform, all essential elements are included or can be added as extensions for low or no cost. Once again, Black Gold Home Based School will assist in getting this set up if you need help.
- [Microsoft Office 2000, XP, 2003, or 2007®](#) or compatible software (such as [OpenOffice](#)) for word processing, creating and reading spreadsheets, and creating presentations. You will not be able to complete school assignments if your software cannot open and save files using Microsoft Word, Excel®, and PowerPoint® formats.
- Home Based School students can access Microsoft Office, during their time with our program, and should contact Black Gold Home Based School for more information.
- [Adobe® Acrobat® Reader®](#) - Version 9 or higher
- [Adobe® Flash® Player](#) - Version 10 or higher
- [Windows Media® Player](#) - Version 11 or higher

Internet Connection

- High speed connection (examples: Cable, DSL)

**Please note: You are responsible for obtaining an Internet service provider. Connectivity issues due to ISP bandwidth limiting or interference are not within the control of Black Gold Home Based School. If you experience such issues, please contact your internet provider.*