



# W. A. Day School

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Fort Macleod, AB, T0L 0Z0  
PH (403 553 3362)



**Principal: Dave Fender**

**Assistant Principal: Leanne Feller**

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Dear Parents and Guardians of At-Home Learners.

We are excited to welcome students and families back to school for the 2020-2021 School Year. Given the circumstances associated with Covid-19, this doesn't look the same for everybody. Some students will be at school. Others will do at-home learning. Typically, the best place for student learning is at school. However, we understand and support your decision for at-home learning. What follows are things to consider and a general overview of what you can expect with at-home learning this year.

Things to consider:

- Parents, your involvement is crucial. This is hard work, but being involved with your child's learning provides support and it lets your child know that you value their education.
- There will be daily opportunities for students to be involved in online sessions with their teacher and classmates. Participating in these sessions is expected. These sessions are important because they allow teachers to hear what the students know. It is also a collaborative way for the students to ask questions, confirm ideas, participate in online classroom activities and build learning relationships with their online peers - approximating what would happen in an in-school setting. These online class sessions will not be recorded, so if your child misses a session, it will be like missing an in-person discussion at school.
- Teachers will record instructional lessons. These will be recorded and accessible to students at any time. This will ensure that students have an opportunity to observe the teacher's instruction at a time that works best for your family.
- Students will be regularly asked by their on-line teacher to demonstrate their learning. This may be done in various ways, including online meetings, work submitted electronically, or even in paper form. This is an important way for teachers to learn what the children can and cannot do. During these assessment times please do not assist your child. Students will make mistakes, but that is all part of the learning process. Of course you can assist with daily assignments, but please do not assist with the assessments.

- No two students are alike. They all learn in different ways and at different rates. As a result, the expectations for all children will not be the same.
- Teachers will take attendance daily. They will do so when students participate in online class discussions, when the students sign on to their learning platform (eg. Google Classrooms or See Saw), or when students connect online for one-on-one work with their teacher.

General overview:

- The instructional focus will be in the four core subjects of English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Each day will include online face-to-face instruction, independent work, and time where the teacher is available to answer questions and provide individual support. The kindergarten expectations will involve more play-based learning.
- Lessons will be based on Alberta Education mandated curriculum. While the lessons may not be exactly the same as the in-school lessons, the same curricular outcomes will be addressed.
- The primary platform used by the online teachers will be Google Classroom for grades 2 through 5. The primary platform for K to 1 will be See-Saw. Tutorials on the use of these platforms will be provided to students and parents/guardians.
- A reliable internet connection is important.
- Student expectations:
  - Attend online sessions and connect early to make sure devices are working properly. Younger students may need help.
  - Work on course material during the school day.
  - An integrated or connected webcam is essential.
  - Use of a headset with a microphone (such as those often included with a smartphone) is encouraged as it minimizes feedback during group discussions.
  - Submit assignments on a regular basis.
  - Digital citizenship guidelines will be sent home. Students must follow these guidelines and expectations.

Additional information will be provided prior to the first day of classes on September 1. If you are not contacted by noon Friday, August 28, please get in touch with the school

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at the number noted above.

With kindness and respect,

Dave Fender