

THE INFERNO

GREYSTONE CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

SYNERGY,
CREATIVITY,
Citizenship



CONTENTS

Collection of Personal Belongings, 02

Library Books & Textbooks, 02

Supports for Students & Families, 04 & 10
 Curriculum & Hours of Learning, 05

Setting Up At-Home Learning 06

Google Classroom for Parents, 07

Digital Literacy & Citizenship, 09

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING

Greystone Centennial Middle School appreciates your patience as we have worked through the necessary planning to resume structured at-home learning opportunities for your child.

We are working hard to ensure all students are provided with at home learning opportunities into the foreseeable future. Our plan will focus on core curriculum subjects, with some additional subjects and activities. There will be academic continuity, as well as some fun, and lots of connecting!

We understand that many families are experiencing significant turmoil and disruption in their daily lives. As such, GCMS' plan will provide a flexible approach to at-home learning for our students and those who are supporting them during this unprecedented situation.

As outlined in the plan, teachers have been directed to evaluate the key outcomes not yet covered in class to prioritize the content to be covered based on what is manageable for students working from home.

To help families prepare for the formal delivery of at-home learning, teachers have been reaching out these past two weeks to provide details around the digital communication and learning platforms to be used in their classes, as well as the hours they will be available to provide support. Teachers also will be seeking to identify students' access to technology, to help determine how best to deliver at-home learning for individual families.

Families can rest assured that regular teacher connection will be a priority, to ensure the health, wellness and safety of our students during this unprecedented time.

We are happy to be reconnecting with our students, they have been missed!



COLLECTION OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS



Thank you to everyone who came by, both before and after Spring Break to collect personal belongings from school. We appreciate your flexibility and the respect that everyone showed for physical distancing.

We still have a few personal items in the school. If you have not collected your child's belongings, please contact the office to arrange a time to come by. We have bagged locker items, and footwear from the bootrack is set up in the front foyer. If you are unable to collect locker items, just let us know.



LIBRARY BOOKS & TEXTBOOKS



If you have library books and textbooks at home, please return them to GCMS. We have a book return cart set up in the front entryway. If you are unable to return these items, please just let us know. You'll get reminders periodically about items that are still signed out to your child.

All textbooks are available online from your child's teacher, usually through Google Classroom. If you are unable to access or use the online resources, please contact your child's teacher for help.

LOOKING FOR BOOKS?

SPRUCE GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Did you know you can sign up for a library card online? You can!

With your library card you have access to 1000s of online resources through the TRAC system.

They've also started digital reading clubs.

Visit their website at <https://sgpl.ca/> or their Facebook page for more information.

AUDIBLE.ca

Visit audible.ca and check out their selection of children's books. Right now they have certain children's audiobooks available for free. There are books for all ages and interests and it is well-worth exploring. <https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

APPLE BOOKS

If you have access to Apple Books, they have a selection of free "Stay at Home" books and audio books available for download. There are books for children and adults in every genre.

KOBO, KINDLE and GOOGLE PLAY

You can download the Kobo and Kindle ereaders onto most devices. The Kobo and Kindle (Amazon) book stores have a number of free or low-cost audio books or digital books available. Google Play also has some free audio books available.



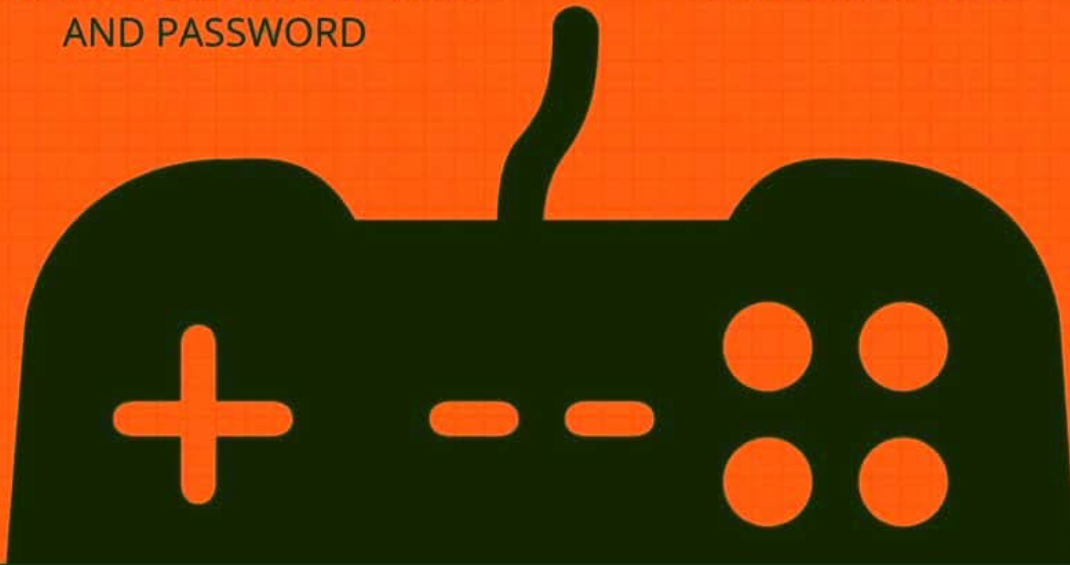
STUDENTS CAN ACCESS GOOGLE CLASSROOM ON XBOX AND PLAYSTATION

XBOX:

USE MICROSOFT EDGE TO OPEN THE BROWSER. TYPE IN CLASSROOM.GOOGLE.COM. SIGN IN USING YOUR SCHOOL EMAIL AND PASSWORD

PLAYSTATION:

USE THE WWW BROWSER. TYPE IN CLASSROOM.GOOGLE.COM. SIGN IN USING YOUR SCHOOL EMAIL AND PASSWORD.



Xbox and Playstation

Did you know that you can connect to Google Classroom with an Xbox or Playstation? Just log on through the browser and use your school username and password.

Both Xbox and Playstation also have keyboard and mouse support.

Xbox:

<https://beta.support.xbox.com/help/Hardware-Network/accessories/mouse-keyboard>

Playstation:

https://support.playstation.com/s/article/Use-Keyboard-and-Mouse-with-PS4?language=en_US



SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES



SUPPORTS FOR AT-HOME LEARNING

Teachers have been reaching out to families to ensure that students have access to the supports they need to be successful with the new at-home learning format.

Materials will be available through Google Classroom for the most part. This requires internet access as well as access to a computer, laptop, iPad/tablet or smart phone.

Paper-Based Format

Accommodations can be made for families that require their child's learning materials in a paper-based format. Teachers will communicate directly with these families to identify the process for picking-up and returning learning packages from their child's school.



"Like" us on Facebook
Greystone School

<https://www.facebook.com/GCMSGCMS>

COVID-19 Support

The following resources have been developed specifically to help those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Always call 9-1-1 if someone is in immediate danger.

Text4Hope

Text4Hope is a free Alberta-based service providing three months of daily Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)-based text messages written by mental health therapists. This evidence-based tool helps people identify and adjust the negative thoughts, feelings and behaviours a pandemic might be expected to provoke.

Text: COVID19HOPE to 393939

Health Link

Phone: 811

Crisis Hotlines

Most of these services are available 24/7 to both families and individuals in need. Click on the name of each service to learn more about it. Always call 9-1-1 if someone is in immediate danger.

Mental Health Help Line (24/7)

This help line provides toll-free, 24/7 confidential and anonymous telephone service for Albertans with mental health concerns. Callers can get information about mental health programs and services, and be referred to other agencies if necessary.

Phone: 1-877-303-2642

Kids Help Phone (24/7)

Kids Help Phone is Canada's only 24/7, national support service. They offer professional and confidential counselling, information and referrals, and volunteer-led, text-based support to young people. You can connect with them by phone, text or live chat, whenever you want, however you want.

Phone: 1-800-668-6868T

Text: Text CONNECT to 686868

Live Chat: kidshelpphone.ca

Provincial Support Line

Provides referrals to community and government support as well as social services

Phone: 211

MAKE AT-HOME LEARNING MANAGEABLE

Learning Outcomes

All teachers have been asked to evaluate the curricular outcomes not yet covered in class to prioritize the content to be covered based on what is manageable for students working from home.

Parents and students will receive learning plans with specific tasks and activities for students.



CURRICULUM & HOURS OF LEARNING

Gr. 4–6 Students

- Language/literacy and mathematics/numeracy outcomes
- Opportunity to incorporate science and social studies outcomes through cross curricular learning
- An average of five (5) hours of work per student per week

Gr. 7–9 Students

- Core mathematics, language/literacy, science and social studies curriculum outcomes
- An average of 10 hours of work per student per week

We know that students are busy, and focusing on the core areas of literacy and numeracy, as well as some Science and Social concepts. But we also know that staying active is important for student wellness and that some our students also have a passion for music and French. There are optional opportunities for students to participate in these areas as well, as time permits.



Special Programming & Activities

PE

- Mr. Granley has PE Google classes set up for each grade that students can join. We encourage each student to be active for 30 minutes per day and record their activity on the activity log (provided in Google Classroom)
- There are activities provided that students (and their families) can participate in. Some require some equipment and some do not require any equipment.
- Each week there will be a challenge that students can participate in. Any videos can be shared with Mr. Granley.
- Follow [Greystone_Athletics](#) on Facebook and Instagram

MUSIC

- Mrs. Putt has Music classes set up for each homeroom that students can join. There will be assignments/videos a posted a week that students are welcome to take part in. The assignments will range from exploring musical skills, performance, theory, aural skills, etc.
- Choir groups also have classes and they can participate in Google Meet sing-alongs.
- Watch for "Music Mondays with Mrs. Putt"!

FSL

- Madame Wolitski has French Google Classrooms set up for all of the students. Students can continue to explore French through videos, cooking, read-alouds, short lessons, films, sharing experiences, optional tasks, challenges, competitions, games, etc...

SETTING UP AT-HOME LEARNING

As the COVID-19 pandemic has presented an alternate reality for Albertans, many families are struggling to adapt to this new way of learning and working. With inevitable distractions on the home-front, it's important for students and adults alike to set realistic expectations and establish new routines that can help them achieve their goals and maintain their physical and mental well-being.

Do:

- Set up a learning space for your child;
- Watch for your child's teachers to communicate their learning plans
- Ensure your child connects with their teacher(s), ideally each week
- Reach out and share any problems/issues that may occur - we're here to support you;
- Have fun learning together and practice patience with one another
- Gets lots of exercise (hopefully it warms up soon!)



Questions

Will every student receive a final report card?

-Yes, students will receive final grades and a report card, appropriate to their grade level, in June.

Are PATs cancelled?

Yes, all Grade 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests are cancelled for the 2019-20 school year.

Do you have other questions?

Just ask! Call the school at 780-962-0357, email greystone@psd70.ab.ca, or your child's teacher.

Learning From Home

- Set realistic Expectations - it is understandable that parents want to keep their child's learning journey moving forward. However this is an unprecedented time and realistic expectations should be established early.
- Maintain a routine - Like their parents, it's critical for students to maintain a consistent daily routine. Wake up at the same time each day, get "read" for school and eat a healthy breakfast before settling into the "classroom".
- Create a dedicated workspace - Create a separate learning space for your child away from any possible distractions (TV, video-games, phone, etc.)
- Implement tech-free time - While the use of technology, especially now, will be important to learning, access to social media and gaming should be kept to a minimum.
- Stay connected - Frequent check-ins with teachers and fellow peers will help students maintain a connection and sense of community.
- Manage emotional wellness - At home learning may be a reality for some time, so managing students' emotional wellness is key. Encourage students to take regular lunch breaks and daily study breaks, just like they would if they were at school. Be sure your child gets plenty of fresh air.
- Stay active - While social distancing is essential, creating opportunities to stay active at home is equally important.
- Ask for help - Learn to ask questions! Teachers will be available via email and other online platforms to students and parents.

adapted from: https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/continuity-plan/learning_continuity



GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR PARENTS

We ask that parents/guardians do not add themselves as students to Google Classrooms. You can always log on as your child, or ask to be invited as a guardian and subscribe to summaries.

If your child's teacher has turned on "Guardian Email Summaries" for Google Classroom you can choose which classes to include in those summaries. As a guardian, you can receive email summaries showing your student's progress in classroom. You can choose the frequency of the emails, such as daily or weekly. (Daily means Monday to Friday. You won't receive email summaries on Saturdays or Sundays.)

You can unsubscribe or remove yourself from Classroom at any time.

Guardian email summaries include:

- Missing work—Work that's late at the time the email was sent
- Upcoming work—Work that's due today and tomorrow (for daily emails) or work that's due in the upcoming week (for weekly emails)
- Class activity—Announcements, assignments, and questions recently posted by teachers

You won't receive an email summary if:

- There's no activity to report for the given time period.
- All your student's teachers turned off notifications for their classes.
- You selected No summaries for how often you'd like to receive emails.
- You aren't connected to any students in Classroom.



Google Classroom

Weekly summary for Felix

Aug 1 — Aug 5, 2016

Student work

Missing from last week

U.S. History — due Jul 26

My top five influential figures in American History

Create a top 5 list of the most influential figures in American history from the people listed in the handout. For each figure, write a brief explanation (in your own words) on why they are on your list. We will be going over this in class so make sure you are ready to justify your choices.

English and American Literature — due Jul 27

What is the Harlem Renaissance? Who started it?

Due next week

DIGITAL LITERACY & CITIZENSHIP

Children, teens (and adults) are spending more time than ever online. There are amazing advantages, such as being able to connect with family, friends, and teachers. Technology can also keep us entertained and help us to learn.

It is always important to remember the principles of digital literacy and good digital citizenship. **Media Smarts** has amazing resources on a variety of topics.

There is a handy **Digital Citizenship Guide for Parents** available online at <https://mediasmarts.ca/sites/default/files/guides/digital-citizenship-guide.pdf>



Parents, you might remember the **House Hippos**. They're back to remind us about misinformation and disinformation. It's more important than ever to think critically about information and be able to tell if something is fake. Visit "**Break the Fake**" at www.breakthefake.ca for videos, a quiz, and more information to help you and your children be critical consumers of online media.

The first tip is to use **fact-checking tools**.

1. Type key words from the story into this custom search engine, which shows results from several fact-checking sites: bit.ly/fact-search.
2. You can also check individual fact-checking sites like Snopes.com to see if they've debunked the story. Check out the video or read the full [tip sheet](#) for more.

Five Key Tips for Digital Parenting

Before you get started, here are five key tips to guiding your kids to safe and responsible digital lives:

Don't be scared!

You hear a lot of scary stuff about kids and the internet, but the fact is that most kids do just fine. Think of the internet as being like a swimming pool: the best way to keep your kids safe there is to teach them how to stay safe.

Talk to your kids.

Don't wait until things have already gone wrong to talk to your kids about online issues, and don't just have one "big talk." What your kids need from you is *guidance*, so they're prepared to deal with problems before they happen, *support* from you when things do go wrong, and for you to *reinforce* these messages by continuing to talk to them as they get older and are more able to make decisions for themselves. The three main sections of this guide have lots of tips on how to talk about all of the major online issues. If you have older kids and haven't talked to them about the internet yet, don't worry: it's never too late to start!

Be a part of your kids' media lives.

What your kids are watching, playing, reading and listening to is a big part of the person they're turning into, and their online lives can be just as important to them as the "real world." Younger kids are usually glad when their parents show an interest in the things they like, so get them to show you how their new favourite game works or why they're so excited about joining a new social network. You can also use media to talk about sensitive issues: kids may be more comfortable talking about sexting or bullying when you're discussing a character in a TV show than someone they know.

Be the person your kids come to when they have problems online.

A lot of the time, kids don't want to go to their parents when things go wrong because they're afraid they'll get in trouble. When your kids start going online make sure they know clear procedures on what to do if things go wrong, like if they can't figure out a game or they accidentally access something unpleasant. (Check out the "How do I talk about..." and "How do I..." sections below for some of these procedures.) If they're in the habit of coming to you about the little things, they'll be a lot more likely to talk to you about the big ones.

Set rules and communicate values.

The internet may seem like the Wild West sometimes, but the rules you set still affect how kids behave online. What's most important is that your rules are a way of getting across the values you want your kids to live by, that way they'll keep living by them even when they're grown up and out on their own.



PLANNING FOR GRADE 10

SGCHS Options and PE Registration

Grade 9 students and families should have received an email earlier this week with information about the process for registering for option classes for Grade 10.

Thank you for your patience as a process was developed to allow students to select their options and Phys. Ed. classes for next year. Grade 9 teachers have already submitted their recommendations for core course placement to the high school. It is difficult to believe that we are at the point in the year to start planning for high school! Usually, counsellors from SGCHS would come to our school to assist with the input of elective courses. This year students will make their selections online.

If you would like to explore some of the choices more closely, please visit the SGCHS website at <https://sgchs.psd70.ab.ca/Programs.php> (remembering that not every option listed will be available every term.)

In the email was a link to the form that students need to complete in order to register for their option classes and Phys. Ed. classes for Grade 10. If you have questions about the options of the process please contact Linnaea Nielsen, Grade 10 Coordinator and Assistant Principal at SCGHS at lnielsen@psd70.ab.ca or 780-962-0800.



SUMMER SCHOOL

Parkland School Division offers Summer School for current and incoming high school students at Connections for Learning. Summer School is a great opportunity to get a head start on the new school year, freeing up your future schedule for courses you didn't think you'd have time to take.

Registration for Summer School is now open, visit the [Summer School Registration & Fees](#) page for more information and to registered.

For a detailed list of the course on offer and their prerequisites, check out the [Summer School Courses](#) page.

Students in Grade 9 will sometimes choose to take PE 10 in the summer, visit the [CFL PE Summer School](#) page for more information.


[Academic Success: Grade 10 Prep and Learning Strategies 15](#) is designed for students who are transitioning into Grade 10. They will learn about the habits and strategies necessary to help them succeed in high school.

Summer School 2020 will run from **Tuesday, June 30 until Friday, July 17**. No classes will be held on Sundays or Canada Day.

For more information contact:

James Coghill
Assistant Principal, Connections For Learning
Phone: 780-963-0507
Email: cfl@psd70.ab.ca

MORE SUPPORT RESOURCES



CONNECTING THOSE IN NEED
with the right services, at the right time.

HelpSeeker connects people with the resources and support they need.
Visit www.helpseeker.org for all of the information and services.

HelpSeeker is a free location-based help services network that allows you to find the closest, most relevant service for your needs with complete privacy. The network connects you to thousands of community, health and social services, programs and resources for: mental health, counselling, parenting, addictions, domestic violence, housing, shelters, recreation, and more.

Westview Youth Mental Health Clinic

WestView PCN Youth Mental Health Clinic runs **Monday and Friday mornings from 9 am - 3 pm for scheduled patients and from 11 am - 3 pm for walk-in patients** (last appointment at 2 pm) out of the **WestView PCN Centralized Clinic** space at suite 101-505 Queen Street, Spruce Grove.

The clinic is for **youth ages 11-25** (ages 11-14 should present with a parent or guardian). The main focus will be on managing ADHD, depression and anxiety.
<http://www.westviewpcn.ca/theme/common/page.cfm?i=10003384>



Community Compass

visit the Parkland Community Compass for information on programs, activities and supports available in the Parkland County, Stony Plain and Spruce Grove Region. There are some amazing videos and stories shared here as well!

<https://www.facebook.com/TheCommunityCompass/>

ENJOY THE LONG WEEKEND

The school will be closed on Friday, April 10th and Monday, April 13th for the Easter long weekend. We will be back and at-home learning plans and meetings will continue on Tuesday, April 14th.

Have a great weekend and stay well.

