



PDSB Online School

Peel District School Board's Online School to support distance learning

The Peel District School Board is delighted to welcome you to a new school year and to the opening of our *PDSB Online School*. Although things will look different this year, we know that with your positive support, we will create an amazing learning community for students.

The *PDSB Online School* was created for the 2020-21 school year for families who have opted out of in-person learning and will receive distance learning instruction to have their child learn from home. Your supervision and assistance are key to your child's success. The *PDSB Online School* will be run by a principal, and all students will be assigned a teacher.

Curriculum delivery

As per Ministry direction, there will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning each day.

- **Synchronous learning:** Learning that happens in real time. Synchronous learning involves using text, video, or voice communication in a way that enables educators and other members of the school- or board-based team to instruct and connect with students in real time. Synchronous learning supports the well-being and academic achievement of all students, including students with Special Education needs, by providing educators and students with an interactive and engaging way to learn. It helps teachers provide immediate feedback to students and enables students to interact with one another.
- **Asynchronous learning:** Learning that is not delivered in real time. Asynchronous learning may involve students watching pre-recorded video lessons, completing assigned tasks, or contributing to online discussion boards.

Learning minutes

As per the Ministry of Education guidelines, each student will have a timetable that supports 300 minutes of learning daily and ensures that distance learning meets all outcomes of the Ontario Curriculum.

- **Kindergarten:** 180 minutes of synchronous and 120 minutes of asynchronous learning daily
- **Grades 1 to 12:** 225 minutes of synchronous learning and 75 minutes of asynchronous learning daily

Student orientation and start date

Consistent with all our PDSB schools we will be providing a staggered entry to the school year. From Sept. 9 to 14, students will take part in student orientation activities to adjust to their new school

routines, including learning about digital citizenship and the use of technology and learning expectations. Given the complexity of reassigning teachers and organizing classes, PDSB will need additional time to plan for the opening of PDSB Online School. Classes for all *PDSB Online School* students will begin early during the week of September 14-18.

Getting your child ready to engage in the *PDSB Online School*

In order to begin the learning experience for you and your child, a number of resources have been prepared for your use. Please click on the link below to support you and your child with distance learning.

<https://sites.google.com/pdsb.net/pdsbosorientation/home>

Please visit this website regularly as it will continue to be updated with other resources and with a copy of the PDSB Online School parent handbook.

Returning to the formal learning environment for any student is an adjustment after the summer break. We ask that you use this orientation time to establish a schedule for your family and child so that they are better prepared to meet the expectations of a full daily timetable. Begin slowly and increase the number of minutes daily that your child is online, so that the transition is smooth. Ensure that you build in wellness breaks during the day and that each child takes time daily for physical activity.

There are many learning experiences that a student can have while not online. Please encourage those and others during this first week. Some ideas include:

- Keep a daily journal
- Wonder about something and then research it through books, talking to family members or friends or experimenting
- Read – everyone should read at least three things every day, a book or a chapter of a book, a poem and something they have written themselves
- Create some artwork
- Set a daily goal
- Interpretive play – drama, puppets

Parent handbook

A complete parent handbook will be provided to you by Sept. 11, 2020 that will provide answers to the many questions you may have. It will be made available online at <https://sites.google.com/pdsb.net/pdsbosorientation/home> and peelschools.org/reopening

The *PDSB Online School* has registered over 35,000 students at the elementary level and over 8,000 students at the secondary level. As we fully recognize the importance of relationships, the *PDSB Online School* will build a bridge back to the home community school and every effort will be made to assign students to classrooms where there are other members from their own school.

We appreciate your support and understanding as this has been a huge undertaking and one that we are committed to doing in the best possible way to ensure your child's success.

For additional information please visit peelschools.org/reopening