

# New Westminister K-8 Online Learning Program

October 5, 2020

Hello Parents/Guardians:

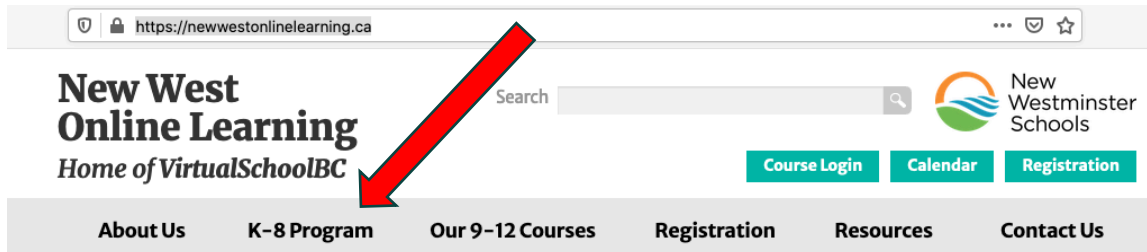
We are so excited to have our program fully up and running! Over the last two weeks you have had the opportunity to connect with your teacher and discuss your child's Student Learning Plan—we appreciate your input into this plan and your commitment to be a partner in your child's learning. You have also received Weekly Learning Plans and schedules of live lessons and class meetings to support learning at home. We are all learning more about Microsoft Teams and figuring out the best way to connect, learn and build community online. We have many engaging learning activities planned for our students in the upcoming weeks.

Please see below for a variety of information and updates to support your child's learning:

## [New K-8 Online Learning Website:](#)

<https://newwestonlinelearning.ca/>

We are pleased to have our own section of the New West Virtual School website to support our K-8 online community. The site currently has an overview of our program including our staff list, key documents sent to families, our calendar, FAQs and technology documents. More information will be added, so please check the site on a regular basis.



The screenshot shows the website interface for New West Online Learning. At the top, the browser address bar displays the URL <https://newwestonlinelearning.ca>. Below the address bar, the website header features the logo "New West Online Learning" with the tagline "Home of VirtualSchoolBC". To the right of the logo is a search bar and the New Westminister Schools logo. Below the search bar are three buttons: "Course Login", "Calendar", and "Registration". At the bottom of the header is a navigation menu with the following links: "About Us", "K-8 Program", "Our 9-12 Courses", "Registration", "Resources", and "Contact Us". A red arrow points from the URL in the address bar to the "K-8 Program" link in the navigation menu.

### **Code of Conduct and Online Behaviour:**

<https://newwestonlinelearning.ca/about-us/our-school/our-code-of-conduct/>

Please support your child to be their best self while they are working online. Our Microsoft Teams environment is a learning space, like a real classroom in a school, not a social media site. Students are expected to follow our Code of Conduct when using Teams and to focus on their learning during our synchronous class lessons and meetings. Students will only be allowed to use the chat feature to interact with their fellow students in specific group-work channels set up by their teacher, or during live lessons to extend their learning. Inappropriate comments or disrespectful interactions between students will result in the removal of the student from the class session and parents/guardians will be contacted. Online bullying will not be tolerated.

Students who wish to use other online tools outside of Microsoft Teams to socialize with their peers are under the guidance and direction of their parent/guardian. You are encouraged to monitor your child's posts and behaviour online on a regular basis to ensure their safety. Online activity is often "permanent", and students need to be aware of their digital footprint. For more information, please see the [Canadian Centre for Child Protection – Online Safety](#)

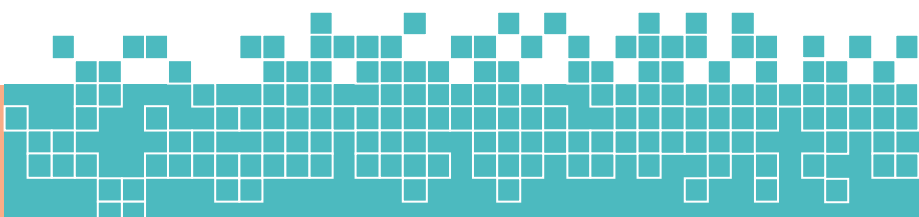


### **Parents as Partners:**

In our online program, we need your support to ensure your child's success. Please review the Weekly Learning Plan with your child and assist them with their assignments and activities. Attendance in online lessons and class meetings is mandatory and teachers will be taking attendance and tracking the completion of activities and assignments. If your child is unable to attend a class lesson, you must contact the teacher. Students who are not attending or engaged in their learning may be removed from the program.

### **Orange Shirt Day Activities:**

On September 30, all schools in the Province of British Columbia recognized Orange Shirt Day, a day where we remember and learn about the profound impact of Residential schools on our Indigenous Communities. Many of our online classes participated in Orange Shirt Day activities in their virtual classroom. For more information, watch [Phyllis Webstad's presentation](#) regarding Orange Shirt Day



### Online Tools—Simbi and Mathletics:

We are very excited to launch two online learning platforms with you to support your child's numeracy and literacy skills:

- Mathletics is an online program that provides foundational math skills and problem-solving practice for students.
- Simbi: is an online reading and comprehension program that allows students read books selected by their teacher and practice important reading skills. Students can also select their own books for pleasure reading from the program.

Your teacher will be sending information about how to access these two amazing learning tools and you will see activities from SIMBI and Mathletics incorporated in your child's Weekly Learning Plans.

### French Supports:

We are pleased to have Mme. Roberts in our Online Program. Mme. Roberts will be supporting our Grade 5-8 online students in building their Core French skills. She will



also be providing our French Immersion families with resources to allow them to continue to have their child practice French at home. If your child is coming from a French Immersion program, please email Mme. Roberts at [kroberts@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:kroberts@sd40.bc.ca) and she will add you to her parent/guardian email list.

### Technology:

Technology has been very challenging for all of us and we thank you for your patience!

- Microsoft Office and Teams:  
At this point, the majority of our families have access to Microsoft and have set their child up in Teams. If you are still having trouble: please email [OnlineLearningSupport@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:OnlineLearningSupport@sd40.bc.ca)
- Commitment to Online Learning:  
As this is an online program, all families need to commit to using email communication with us on a regular basis and to becoming familiar with using Teams. Teachers **will not** be able to send paper-based work home or communicate via phone on a regular basis.

- Parent Support for Teams:  
Ms. Decamp, our Technology Facilitator, has recently created two parent videos to help you “Navigate Teams” <https://video.link/w/4Cmkb> ,and to help you support your child with “Assignments” <https://video.link/w/ZBmkb>

You can also find them here on our website:

<https://newwestonlinelearning.ca/k-8-program/technology-guides/>



- Chromebook Loans:  
Parents who have indicated that they needed a Chromebook for their child to support their online learning were contacted and have been directed to pick up the device from their home school. Please make sure you have collected your device by Monday, October 5. If you are still in need of a Chromebook, please email Prab Samra at [psamra@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:psamra@sd40.bc.ca) as soon as possible.

### **KEV Reminders:**

You may be receiving reminders from our KEV online permission program to complete outstanding forms. Even though your child is currently enrolled in the online program, we still request that you complete these forms. In the event that your child does return to in-class instruction later in the year, the forms would be complete, and for right now, we do need your consent for the acceptable use of technology (Microsoft and Teams), photo and video release if we want to post events or photos on our website or share in the virtual classrooms, and walking field trip consent for some of our classes who are going to meet small groups of students outside for some learning experiences. Thank you for your prompt attention to completing these forms.

### **Student Photos:**



Over the next week keep an eye out for an email from Pam Craven regarding student photo opportunities. We are exploring different options and will update you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our program!

Kind regards,

Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director of Instruction [mstanger@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:mstanger@sd40.bc.ca)

Pam Craven, District Principal, New Westminister Online Learning [pcraven@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:pcraven@sd40.bc.ca)