



Dear TDSB Virtual School Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the TDSB Virtual Elementary School – we are excited and looking forward to beginning the 2020-21 school year together! This is a year like no other but as always, our top priority is to ensure all students experience success.

As you already know, virtual school will begin on **Tuesday, September 22, 2020**. Today's update provides some additional information to help prepare in advance for the first day.

Brightspace for Students

The online learning platform for all students enrolled in TDSB Virtual School is Brightspace. The Brightspace learning platform is provided to all Ontario school boards by the Ministry of Education. Students will access Brightspace using their TDSB account ID & password. This account information will be emailed to all parents closer to the start of Virtual School, prior to September 22.

Working in Brightspace students will communicate with their teachers, have access to class discussions, learning material, activities and the ability to submit assignments. They will also have access to Portfolio, a place inside Brightspace to digitally document & share their learning with their teacher(s). Students will also be able to use G Suite for Education tools (Drive, Docs, Slides, etc.) along with the many digital resources available through TDSB's Virtual Library inside Brightspace.

Brightspace for Parents & Families

Parents/guardians are encouraged to [create a "Brightspace for Parents" account](#) which will provide a window into their child's online classroom. Information available includes Announcements, Upcoming Work, Recent Grades, Portfolio Items and any items that may be Overdue. Please note, in order to create a Brightspace for Parents account, the parent/guardian must have an email address already on file in our Student Information System. If you already receive emails from TDSB and your child's school, you are ready to create an account.

Meet the Teacher

As we shared earlier this week, we continue to work as quickly and efficiently as possible to staff, timetable and place all students into classrooms to meet the growing number of students enrolled in TDSB Virtual School. Teachers will gain access to their Brightspace classes by the weekend. As soon as teachers have class and student information, they will begin to connect with students and families to introduce themselves and to answer any questions and ensure everyone is comfortable and prepared to join the class online for the first day of learning.

Once again, we thank everyone for your ongoing patience as we work through this process and prepare as best we can for a successful year ahead. Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/virtualschool for the most up to date information.

