

## **What to Expect in Learning On-line**

Over the next couple of weeks, all elementary students in Ontario will be learning from home in an on-line format. We wanted to take some time to explain how this will work. Learning environments will basically take two forms which are explained below. These are synchronous and asynchronous activities. The amount of each of these activities and what they look like will vary depending on the age of the student. Typically, older students can meaningfully interact with their teacher for longer periods of time, can do more varied independent tasks and do them for more extended periods.

### *Asynchronous Learning*

*Asynchronous learning is a student-centered teaching method widely used in online learning. Its basic premise is that learning can occur in different times and spaces particular to each learner, as opposed to synchronous learning at a same time and place with groups of learners and their instructor, or one learner and their instructor. In asynchronous learning, instructors usually set up a learning path, which students engage with at their own pace.*

### *Synchronous Learning*

*Synchronous learning refers to all types of learning in which learner(s) and instructor(s) are in the same place, at the same time, in order for learning to take place. This includes in-person classes, live online meetings when the whole class or smaller groups get together. In synchronous learning, students usually go through the learning path together, accompanied by their instructor who is able to provide support while students are completing tasks and activities.*

*Most online teaching happens asynchronously, with synchronous learning usually taking place only if there is a specific need for live discussion or interaction, or as a strategy to build community among learners.*

These definitions were taken from a post from Bryn Mawr College

As we go into the next few weeks of on-line learning, your children will experience both opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of the concepts and skills being taught. Starting on January 11<sup>th</sup>, we are asking the students to follow their regular school day schedule and classroom timetable. This means starting at 9:00 am and working through the day. Each teacher will be

providing all their students and parents with their class timetable so you can see what each day will potentially hold in store.

The first thing to note is we are asking you to take your “normal” nutrition/fitness breaks as scheduled. These are the times to get a bite to eat and do a little inside or outside play. These will also be the times when teachers are completely off-line to re-charge and prepare.

The second adjustment for us is what the lessons look like. During the instructional blocks, the homeroom and rotary teachers will plan and administer lessons, short activities, independent work and even multi-day tasks for students to complete ***and*** submit. This means that during the instructional block the teacher may not always be visibly on-line, in front of the whole class, actively giving instructions. The students will need time to work as well. The synchronous part of the lesson may be divided up between whole class instruction and discussion, a small group lesson, the teacher working one-to-one with a student, or even the teacher working with a parent, on-line. Following the instructions of a lesson, the teacher may ask the students to work on the posted assignment independently and will be “in the background” to help with questions or clarifications.

Please understand that as in all learning environments some people flourish, and others struggle. Our teachers are there to help those who are having difficulty and will use portions of the instructional day to give more assistance. If your child is handling the workload more easily, we would encourage you to visit this link

<https://dsbn.org/learn-from-home/asynchronous-learning>

to access additional activities for your child to complete.

Lastly, we know that this is a very different environment in which to learn. We understand that there are a great many obstacles to overcome to do this successfully. Though farther apart, we are in this together. Please keep the lines of communication open so that we can help each other and please honour the other things we all have in our lives. If you have a question or concern please reach out to us, but please do so during our regular working hours.

Sincerely,

Your DeWitt Carter Staff