



November 27, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of JMHS students;

By now, you will have received the At-Home Learning plan from Black Gold School Division. The switch to At-Home Learning is a temporary measure imposed by the Government of Alberta to try and act as a “circuit breaker” event. As such, we will continue to teach and learn in as normal a manner as possible given the circumstances. Please see the Black Gold At Home Learning document here:

<https://www.blackgold.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BGSD-At-Home-Learning-Plan.pdf>

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of how this will be implemented at JMHS.

General Information:

- ❑ While the school is not “closed,” students and parents will not have access to the building without a previously arranged appointment; no drop-ins. During such an appointment, all visitors to JMHS will be expected to follow all COVID-related procedures including wearing a mask and cleaning your hands.

- ❑ If a parent or student needs to contact a staff member, they must call the main office or email the staff member.

- ❑ Staff will be available during regular hours, but will be actively teaching during their designated class times.

Classroom procedures:

- ❑ At-Home Learning will be synchronous. This means that students will be expected to “attend” their live online class at their scheduled class time. Each teacher will provide their students with a link to their Google Meet so that they may participate in class. In most cases, this will be through each teacher’s Google Classroom.
- ❑ Classes will be a blend of direct instruction and supervised work time. The “amount” of time for each will depend on the class and the lesson for that day.
- ❑ We will be following our school’s regular bell schedule. The only exception will be on Dec. 2 and Jan. 6 when we will have early dismissal for staff meetings. Bell schedules can be found here: <https://jmhs.blackgold.ca/about/schedule/>
- ❑ Current block 5 classes will move to block 2 (10:05-11:31 am.) from Nov. 30 till Dec. 18. They will move back to prescribed time on January 4, 2021.
- ❑ Attendance will be recorded. If a student is ill and cannot participate in their online classes, parents will still need to report the absence to the school as usual.
- ❑ Teachers will be providing assignments with due dates. Students will be expected to adhere to the prescribed due dates.
 - ❑ All curricular outcomes will be addressed.
 - ❑ If a student has difficulty meeting a deadline or has a technological issue, the student must contact their teacher to work out a solution.
 - ❑ A reluctant zero will be assigned to tasks that are not submitted.
- ❑ Students will be expected to maintain behavior appropriate for school while online. The expectations are no different than regular in person classes. This does mean students are not to be gathering with each other to do their classes online...kind of the whole point of school being “At-Home”.
- ❑ Some of our CTS courses, such as Construction, Cosmetology, Foods etc. have certain outcomes that can only be met with a practical demonstration of skills. While we will not be running in-person classes for any subjects, teachers may reach out to students to set up a time for an “appointment” to come into the school to demonstrate a skill or complete a practical project. Teachers will arrange this with their students on an individual basis.

Final Exams:

- ❑ Diploma Exams are optional for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Before exams commence, we will be administering a survey to determine those who will take an exemption and those who will write the exams.
 - ❑ Please note that if a student is failing a Diploma Exam course at the time of exam, if they want to attempt to pass the course they must take the exam in order to achieve a passing grade.
- ❑ All other courses that normally have final exams will do so, but at a reduced weighting; a maximum of 15% of the final grade.
- ❑ As our exam period commences on January 19, after the January 11 return date, exams will run as normally and in-person at the school.

Student Support:

- ❑ Students who are struggling with their studies are encouraged to first contact their teachers. Teachers are best positioned to provide help to ensure success in completing assignments.
- ❑ Ms. Kruyer in our Student Services Department will continue to offer support to our students during the period of At-Home Learning. She will be available from 10:00-11:30am. everyday.

We know this is a difficult time for this change to occur, but we all now have experience with the learning format and we can make this work. If you have any questions or concerns about the use of google meets the following link is a tutorial on how to use them:

<https://jmhs.blackgold.ca/how-to-access-google-meet-tutorial/>

Please do keep in close contact with your teachers and the school with any other questions or concerns you have and please do stay safe.

Thank you,

Darren Caldwell
Principal, John Maland High School

