WESTERN QUÉBEC VIRTUAL CAMPUS
LEARN. CONNECT. ACHIEVE.

- Guide for Families -

Does your student have the opportunity to take an online class with the WQSB Virtual Campus? Here's what you need to know!

The Virtual Campus has been offering online learning to secondary schools across Quebec since 1999. The **Western Quebec School Board** Virtual Campus partners with **LEARN** for administrative and technical support.

Some advantages of online learning:

- Wider variety of courses which may not be available in your local school
- Courses that are prerequisites for certain college or CEGEP programs
- Qualified and experienced teachers
- Developing digital learning skills and autonomy, important preparation for both work and post-secondary learning
- Getting to know students from other Quebec communities
- Your child will have an opportunity to improve their communication skills

What to expect? How is online learning different from learning in a school classroom?

- Classes and group meetings may be smaller than in the school environment. Your child may receive more personalized attention from the online teacher.
- Online students may have less visual contact with the teacher or students from other schools.
- Your child will likely read more and communicate more in writing (through email, chat, or discussions) with the teacher and fellow students.
- Due to different calendars at participating schools (holidays, activities, exams, etc.) and depending on whether the student is following a Real-Time or Self-Paced course, there may be days when your child will not have a live class. On these occasions, they may be given a work session.
- The online teacher will evaluate your child's assignments, tests, and exams, but marks will be recorded in their report at the school.

Types of courses:	
Real-Time (RT)	**Self-Paced (SP)**
- Live online classes are scheduled at consistent times during the school day and integrated into the student's timetable. - Classes follow daily schedules that are established in collaboration with partner schools - Students have access to resources 24/7 through our learning portal. 6 credit courses - 5 classes per week 4 credit courses - 4 classes per week 2 credit courses - 2 classes per week	- For schools with scheduling challenges or looking for an additional delivery option **- Students in Self-Paced courses must have time allotted in their timetable for the Self-Paced learning.** - Students move through courses with guided pacing, but should be autonomous learners. - Monitoring and guidance are provided by the teacher between instructional sessions. - Instructional time meetings are required each school week.

People supporting your child in online learning:

- Online teacher
- WQSB and LEARN Virtual Campus teams
- Online classmates
- Your local school team, including the principal and a facilitator
- **And… you!**

Families will provide their contact information in the registration form. Online teachers will reach out to families via email when that information has been received.

How can family members support the online learner?

- Discuss experiences, successes, and challenges with the student.
- The content may be challenging. **Help your students work through this challenge by encouraging them to ask for help, get more practice, and keep trying.**
- **All teachers offer extra help. Just ask!**
- Communicate directly with the online teacher starting early in the school year. Working together as a team will help the student feel supported.

Tips for Students to help with Online Success:

- Participate! Whether you are working alone or in a group, contribute your ideas, perspective, and comments on the subject you are studying, and listen to your classmates. Your teacher is not the only source of information in your course… You can gain great insight from your peers, and they can learn from you as well.
- Take the program and yourself seriously. Get support from your classmates, family, and friends before you start on your online adventure. It helps to surround yourself with people who understand and respect what you are trying to do.
- Make sure you have a private space where you can study.
- Become an e-learning expert! Discuss the online course(s) and this learning opportunity with whoever will listen. Get familiar with the platforms you use every day.
- **Log on to Moodle every school day.** Moodle houses your course information, announcements, and resources. It is also where you will access Zoom for live classes and meetings. **If you let too many days go by without doing your coursework, you will find it very difficult to catch up.**
- Be polite and respectful. Remember, you are dealing with real people.
- Speak up if you have questions, concerns, or problems. Remember that your teacher cannot see you, so you must be detailed in your comments and requests. If you don't understand something, chances are other people may have the same question.
- Apply what you learn. Try to make connections between what you are learning and what you do or will do in your future.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us directly. Let's work together for a great year!

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