



Return to School Messaging - Blended Learning

Dear ASD-N Families,

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school, and we want to assure you that the health and safety of our students and staff is a top priority.

We know there are still questions around the blended learning approach that high schools will be taking this year, and especially the role that laptops and personal devices will play in that. BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) is intended to support blended learning this school year.

While we anticipate many of you will be able to have your own personal device in September, we know that this is not possible for everyone and ASD-N will work with those students and families who do not have electronic devices during school start-up. Our first priority is getting our students back to school, and renewing our relationships with them. We do not want students or parents to panic - we understand that returning to school is a busy time, and we know there will be an adjustment period to get everything set up and running. Schools will use this time to work with students to ensure they have the devices needed. For any families who are not in a position to access new devices, please contact your school principal. Teachers use multiple strategies and resources when instructing their students - the use of laptops and personal devices is just one part of that plan. These devices will help promote continuity of learning.

At this time, there is no expectation for elementary or middle school students to supply their own devices, unless advised by your particular school.

Some important things to remember:

- Some of our smaller high schools can provide appropriate physical distancing and students will attend as usual, every day. For our high school students at larger schools, they will attend every second school day.
- When students are learning from home, this should not be considered a day off. Students will continue to learn full time, and are expected to remain in contact with their teachers and classmates regularly. This could look different from school to school, and even class to class. **Off-site learning days = school days.**
- Students who plan to use devices they already own must be able to work on the learning platforms Microsoft Teams and Desire2Learn. The recommended technical specifications for using these programs can be found at <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/ed/pdf/K12/AppendixTechnicalSpecifications.pdf>

EECD Resources:

We have included the links and additional information below, for high school student families looking to purchase a new device:

A subsidy program is available for students from low- and middle-income families who do not currently own a device. Families will be provided with up to \$600 per high school student to purchase a laptop through the program, depending on their eligibility.

Details about the subsidy program can be found here:

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/education/services/services_renderer.201514.Laptop_Subsidy_Program.html. For information or if you have trouble signing in: 1-833-901-1963.

Discounted price

If you are ineligible to receive a subsidy but would like to take advantage of a discounted price, you can purchase your computer through IMP Solutions. You may access their site at <https://eecdsd-edpeae.impsolutions.com/>.