



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

A Guide to Distance Learning

For DCDSB Parents and Guardians



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What is Distance Learning?



Distance learning is facilitated on a virtual learning environment such as Edsby, D2L and Office 365, without in-person instruction between the teacher and students.



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What can families expect?

The hours of student work per week will vary by grade based on the Ministry of Education's expectations.

- 1. Communication** – Learning activities posted by teachers
- 2. Instruction** – Lessons will align with Ministry of Education expectations in core subject areas
- 3. Connect** – Time for students to connect with their teachers
- 4. Feedback** – Teachers will provide feedback on your child's progress





Distance Learning Plan

Instructional guidelines for Phase 2 Learn at Home	Primary Kindergarten to Grade 3	Junior Grades 4 to 6	Intermediate Grades 7 to 8	Senior Grades 9 to 12
Subject/Course Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Education Literacy Mathematics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Education Literacy/French Mathematics Science Social Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Education Literacy/French Mathematics Science History/Geography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress courses Achieving credits, completion, graduation
Approximate time students will spend per week on work assigned by their teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 hours per week of student work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 hours per week of student work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 hours per week of student work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 hours per course per week of student work
Assessment and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formative assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formative assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formative assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formative and summative assessments Ministry clarification pending

Virtual Learning Environments





What you can do to structure the day?

Establish a daily routine for your child

- Set a start and end of school time
- Self-directed time
- Incorporate healthy nutrition breaks and movement breaks
- Try to keep a regular routine around bedtime
- Remember to pray with your child. Prayer is a part of their day at school too. You can start with a morning prayer, say grace before meals, or have your child express their own prayer and intentions.

Be flexible

- Break schoolwork up into small chunks of time
- Include daily physical activity into your child's day
- Your child may need more or less time to complete a task than what the teacher suggested

Expect your child to use technology appropriately, as they would at school. Help them practice proper digital citizenship.





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Have fun and don't be afraid to play!

Remember that play and inquiry are primary drivers of learning.

Children are curious and competent individuals who have a natural desire to explore – this is the best way to learn!

No matter how old, being actively engaged is important, so take the opportunity to play and learn together with your child.

Try to create an environment where "schooltime" is something to look forward to!



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Develop a Growth Mindset with your Child

Ask your child the following questions to develop a growth mindset:

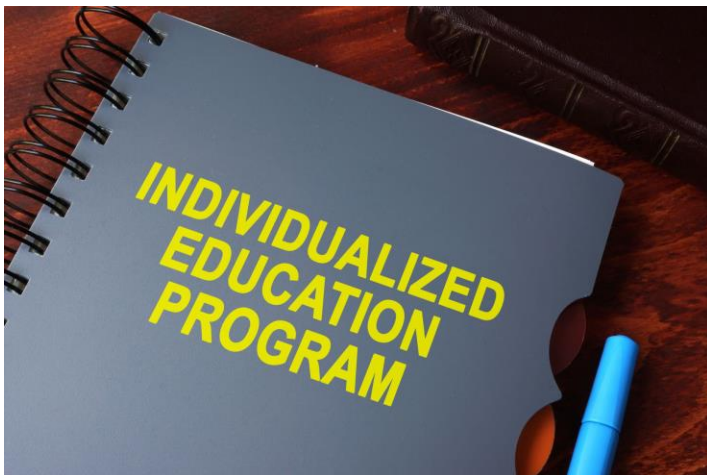
- What did you do today that made you think hard?
- What happened today that made you keep going?
- What can you learn from this?
- What mistake did you make that taught you something?
- What did you try hard at today?
- What new strategy are you going to try next?
- What will you do to challenge yourself today?
- What will you do to improve your work?
- What will you do to solve a problem?





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Special Education



As part of our Distance Learning Plan, teachers will provide students with learning materials and supports that are consistent with the goals and expectations in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Program Support Teachers will provide additional and specialized support for students who have Alternative expectations in their IEP.



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Special Education



A full explanation of special education supports is provided in our [Parent's Guide to DCDSB's Special Education Distance Learning Plan.](#)



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Special Education



Parents and guardians are encouraged to visit the [Special Education section](#) of our Keep Learning webpage. This webpage includes online resources and tip sheets to support learning at home for students with special education needs.



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Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

Your child will use Edsby, Office 365 and/or Desire2Learn (D2L)/Brightspace platforms for distance learning. These platforms will allow for paperless communication and will be used to assign student work.

Parents are not to input work on their child's behalf on the VLE or to record video lessons.



D2L | Brightspace



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Technical Support

Parents can access Edsby support by visiting www.dcdsb.ca/Edsby. Videos are available to answer questions such as:

How do I sign up for Edsby?

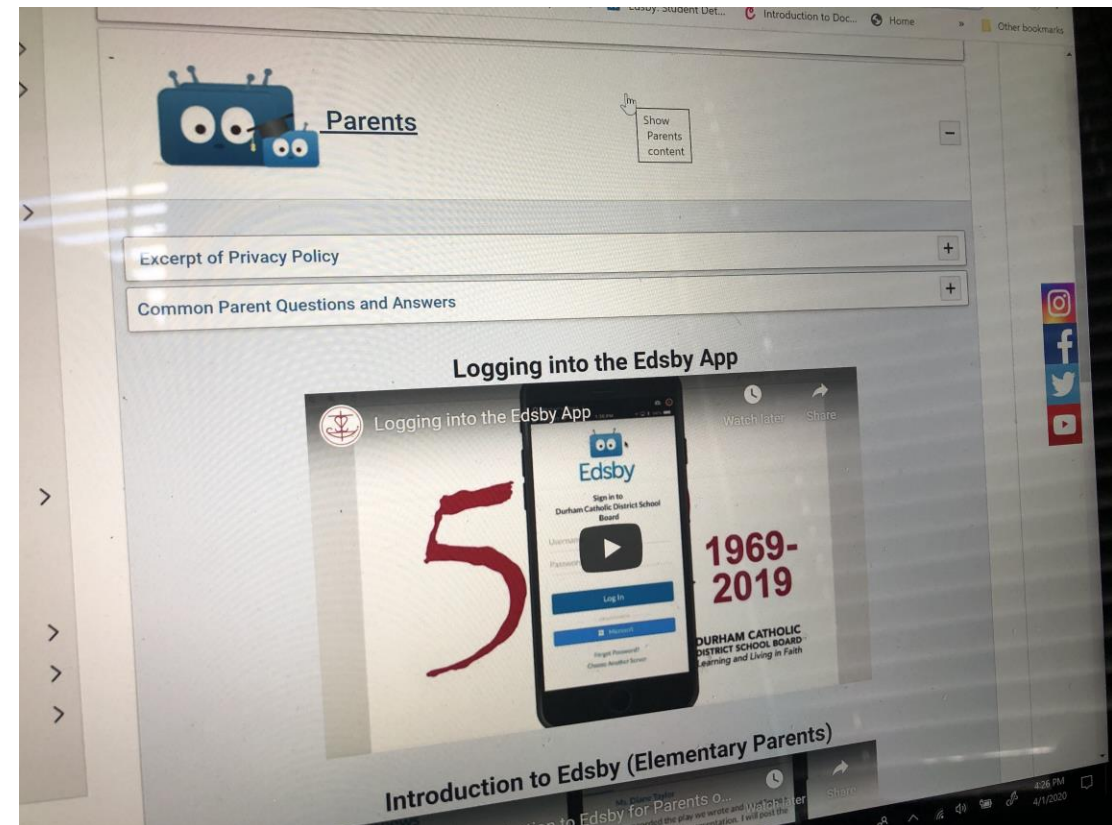
How do I sign into the Edsby App?

Where can I go for "How To Videos"?

How do I reset my password?

How do I join my other children to my account?

What do I do if I don't receive an invite?





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Same Vision, Different Platform

We are called to celebrate and nurture the God-given talents of each student as we serve with excellence in the light of Christ.

Visit the [Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations](#) for more information.



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