



RVS ONLINE SCHOOL

Parent/Guardian Information



RVS Online School

Rocky View Schools (RVS) is creating two new online schools, Grade 1 – 9 and Grade 10 – 12, starting in the 2021/22 school year. Both schools will build on the successful RVS Online Learning offering from 2020/21 and introduce some changes to improve the virtual learning experience for students. For those parents/guardians and students familiar with RVS Online Learning in 2020/21, there are some important differences! Whether you experienced RVS Online Learning or are exploring it for the first time, the following gives you an idea of what to expect.

Both schools will be their own unique school. Just like in face-to-face school, they will have their own principal, teachers, staff, and access to various student supports. Students and staff will not be connected to any other existing RVS school and will focus on bringing students, staff, and when possible, families together to build their own school community and culture.

Students and teachers in online classes will be coming from across RVS to learn together in these two new schools. Class sizes will be similar to those in a face-to-face school, recognizing this can change depending on enrolment numbers. To develop these two schools successfully, the focus will be on regular programming; French Immersion or Faith-Based will no longer be offered online but will continue to be offered through face-to-face programming at designated schools.

If you are considering online learning for your child(ren) next year, all registrations must be submitted between 8 a.m. on May 12 and 5 p.m. on May 31, 2021. To provide students with the best possible start to their new online school, RVS needs time to plan and prepare. Unfortunately, that means **we are unable to accommodate new registrations for online school after May 31 or to switch those who are registered in online school back to an in-person school.**

Once registered, parents and students should be aware this is a decision that is to be in place for the duration of the year. Students will be transferred from their current school and registered in the online school. If you wish to have your child return to their designated in-person school, that will only be possible when their designated school has space and resources to accommodate the request. We do NOT anticipate there to be resources to allow students to shift between online and in-person after this May registration period. Families must be prepared to have their children/dependents remain in the online school for the full 2021/22 school year. Please consider your decision carefully. For more information please contact your area director at 403-945-4016.

Registration for the RVS online school for the 2021/22 school year is open May 12 and will close on May 31, 2021. Registration is for the full 2021/22 school year.



Online Instruction

Students are taught through a combination of real-time online video interaction and instruction, online activities/resources, pre-recorded videos, and through independent work.

Students are not expected to be online all day. Teachers will be available online during the school day to answer questions, problem solve with a student, or provide feedback during task completion. There will also be opportunities for students to work at their own pace within the day, week, or topic.

- Grade 1 – 9: The teacher will establish a daily routine, including a minimum of two real-time online video sessions each day, which may be whole class, small group or one-on-one. The average hours of work per student per week will be similar to those students attending in-class learning. All core curriculum and outcomes in the Program of Studies will be covered for each grade similar to the in-person offerings in RVS. At the older grades, elective options will be defined closer to the start of the school year. Students will also be expected to complete assignments independently and/or with family support. Students will be assessed as if they were in a regular classroom.
- Grade 10 – 12: Students will be supported through video sessions/tutorials with their online teachers, including a minimum of two real-time online video sessions per course per week. Schedules for these sessions and expectations for student participation will be provided by the teacher. These classes will have a blend of self-directed and teacher-led activities. The courses will address all outcomes in the Program of Studies and prepare students for provincial diploma exams and other school-based final assessments. Courses available include: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Sciences at various academic sequences (e.g., -1, -2, -3) where the enrolment is adequate, CALM and Physical Education. Please be aware some options available in-school will not be available online due to the equipment and in-person nature of those classes. Exact option courses offered online will be determined closer to the start of the school year.

Students and parents/guardians will receive ongoing teacher feedback on student performance. Teachers are accessible and here to help!

Please note, online learning is not available to Kindergarten students.

Questions and Answers

More Questions and Answers are available on our [website](#).

What are the technology requirements for my child?

Your child must have their own dedicated tablet, laptop, or desktop computer with reliable internet access. An RVS technology support person is available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday for assistance.

What are my parental responsibilities?

As the parent/guardian, it is your responsibility to ensure your child is engaged with learning, completing assignments and is available for real-time instruction. The level of parental involvement will depend on your child's grade level and learning maturity. Lower grades (1 – 4) will require ongoing parental support throughout the day.

Who will be my child's teacher?

Classes will have designated online teachers who are a part of your online school staff. You will also be able to communicate with the online teacher as needed, similar to when your child is in their regular classroom.

Who will be in my child's class?

Your child's online class will be composed of children from across RVS. Out-of-district registrations will not be accepted for the 2021/22 school year. The number of students in an online class will be similar to in-person classrooms.

What about assessment and feedback?

Learner outcomes as per the Alberta Program of Studies will be taught and assessed. Teachers will provide regular feedback and marks and comments will be posted in RVS' PowerSchool Parent Portal as they would in face-to-face school.

How will my child with exceptional learning needs be supported?

Each online school will have their own learning support team as well as access to a broad range of jurisdictional supports and services.

Your child's Student Success Plans (Personal Program Plan, Individualized Program Plan, Behaviour Support Plan) will continue to be collaboratively supported and reviewed with you by your child's online teacher, online school team and where appropriate, our divisional team.

Can my child take classes outside of the online school?

Students will only be able to take classes offered by the online school.

What electives will be offered in online school?

Elective options are continuing to be explored and will be defined closer to the start of the school year.

How is RVS online school different from the temporary at-home learning required by the Alberta government or provided during close contact isolation?

The new RVS online schools address the Alberta Program of Studies and are attended for the full school year. The at-home learning that has been required at various times by the government or when students needed to self-isolate was a temporary means of educating students and does not address all curriculum areas or have the same level of expectations as RVS online school.

Will there be any opportunities for in-person interaction/activities?

Part of building a school community is bringing students, staff, and when possible, families together. The online schools will look for creative ways to connect within a virtual environment. There may be opportunities for face-to-face gatherings as the school develops, however the priority will be to ensure a strong online learning environment before considering in-person interaction/activities.

Will online schools offer clubs, sports and other extra curricular activities?

These opportunities are being explored and will be defined closer to the start to the school year and as the year progresses.

Can my child start in the online school and then go back to their designated school when the pandemic settles down?

No. You are registering your child for the full 2021/22 school year in the online school. Your child will be transferred from their current school and into the online school.

My child was in RVS Online Learning in 2020/21. Will they be automatically enrolled in the new online school for 2021/22?

No. They will be enrolled in their regular school. If you wish to enrol them in the new online school, please complete the new enrolment process.

If my child enrolls in online school for 2021/22, can they return to their regular school in 2022/23 for in-person learning?

Yes. Your child can return to their regular, designated school in 2022/23. If your child is currently accepted as an out of area student to attend a school other than their designated school and they leave to attend online school, they will need to re-apply to the out of area school in 2022/23.