



Virtual Learning 2020-2021



EMSB Virtual Learning Newsletter - December 2020

Welcome to Virtual Learning!

Who are we?

First, let us take a step back from this journey that started three months ago. On September 8, 2020, the Virtual Learning setting opened its virtual doors to approximately 40 students. Fast forward to December 2020 and we find ourselves with 540 students at the elementary and high school level, a staff of over 80 people (homeroom/ subject teachers, resource teachers, child care workers & special education technicians, two and a half secretaries, a Vice-Principal and a Principal). We are all so happy and proud to be able to offer a virtual option to all our vulnerable families.

Allow us to introduce ourselves. Our journey with the Virtual Learning setting started one month in, on October 5, 2020. As most of you have never met us or seen us, we thought a short video would help you put a face to the name.

Christy Tannous, Principal - [video](#).
Réal Heppelle, Vice-Principal - [video](#).



Workbooks

Most of you have received your workbooks or will be picking them up soon. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience. When the orders were initially placed, they were placed for the few students we had. Our numbers then grew exponentially and the publishing houses did not have enough workbooks to send us as most resources were now on backorder. Schools usually place their orders in June; we were only able to place our order in September. To ensure all students had access to the material made available to them in their base schools, the school board provided art supplies, physical education material as well as math manipulatives given to the students free of charge.



Given that most parents have collected materials, we have now closed our booking system.

***This part of the newsletter was edited on December 10th. ***

Families who have not yet collected their workbooks will receive an email to arrange a new pick-up date and time.

Evaluation

You should all have received your children's Progress Reports, which were made available on November 20th on the Mozaik portal. Our first virtual Parent-Teacher Interviews took place on November 26. If you were unable to make an appointment on that day, feel free to contact them to make alternate arrangements to discuss your child's progress.



The Term 1 Report Cards will be available on January 22, 2021 on the Mozaik portal. It will cover the period from September 8 to December 18, 2020. As per the Minister's request, our second parent-teacher interviews will occur in April (exact date to be determined).

A reminder to parents that you are not required to wait until the Parent-Teacher Interviews to communicate with your child's teachers; you may do so at any time during the academic year.

Holidays

During his last press conference, the Minister announced many changes to the holiday calendar, mainly that students currently in school will need to learn remotely for a few days in December as well as for the first week back in January (for high school students).

Please note that these changes do not affect our students in Virtual Learning as they are already learning remotely, therefore the calendar remains unchanged. The last day of school prior to the holidays will be December 18th, 2020 (with modified hours in elementary school; teachers will send an email with more information) and the return to school will be on January 4th, 2021 for all our Virtual students.



Exams

Following one of Minister Roberge's announcements regarding evaluations, the

EMSB made a decision to replace formal mid-year exams with in-class evaluations.

Supplemental examinations may still be taking place in January for students currently in secondary 5 who were not successful in obtaining some of their graduation credits during the 2019-2020 academic year. These include secondary 4 Math, Science & Technology and History. Those students will be contacted on an individual basis.

Regarding end of year evaluations, it was announced that the grade 6 English Language Arts and Mathematics End of Cycle exams would still be taking place in May/June. At the high school level, the usual ministry exams will still be taking place in May/June. These include secondary 4 Math, Science & Technology, History, as well as secondary 5 English Language Arts and Français (langue seconde/ enrichi/ langue maternelle/ langue d'enseignement).

It is still unclear as to whether these ministry exams will be offered in-person only.



Additional Pedagogical Days

In October 2020, Minister Roberge added 3 ped days to the school calendar for planning and training purposes. The exact dates were left to the discretion of the different school boards. January 22 and February 12, 2021 are now ped days for Virtual learning students. The third ped day will be taking place in April or May, with the exact date to be confirmed.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We are happy to announce the addition of virtual ECAs, offered at no cost to the families of our Virtual Learning students. Depending on the choice of ECA made, students will have the opportunity to socialize with other students, partake in physical activities, develop their love of reading, learn to code, make a video, and so much more! ECAs at



the high school level have already begun. Information regarding ECAs at the elementary level will be emailed shortly and will begin in January.

Information sessions & workshops

We ask parents and guardians to check their emails regularly for information sessions as well as workshops being offered. Workshops on Google Classroom and Netiquette have already been offered. Information sessions about the Sexuality Education program are being offered over the course of the next few weeks.

The links to any documents shared during the workshop have been emailed to parents and added to our website.

Communication & contact information

Communication between the administration and the virtual families will often be done through our mass emailing system. The emails will be sent from “EMS Virtual” using the email address

“broadcasts@schoolmessengermail.com”.

As this is an automated system, you are asked not to respond to that email address.

If you would like to communicate with a member of the administration, we ask that you leave a message with our secretary Ms. Deborah Vaux at **514-483-7200 extension 7726**. You can also email us at **virtualschool@emsb.qc.ca**



Website

A reminder to bookmark our website for the most up to date monthly calendar, as well as other important information such as the phone number and email address for technical support. Don't forget our social media handles!



www.emsb.qc.ca/virtualllearning



*On behalf of the
entire Virtual
Learning staff,
we wish you and
your families a
safe and healthy
holiday break.*

