January 2023 Virtual Elementary School Parent Newsletter

The board office can be reached at 705-742-9773 or 1-877-741-4577 with extensions to the contacts below:

Principal: Stephen Fisher Ext. 3601

Secretary: Eleanor Badgley Ext. 3600

Helpdesk for VES Parents (Technical issues):

Email: kpr_technology@kprdsb.ca

Extension: 3002

Follow this link to contact Trustees by region for your home school.

School Website

Administrators' Message:

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to everyone! I would like to thank the staff, students and the parent community for a wonderful fall. I look forward to the next few months, and continuing to work with everyone here at the Virtual Elementary School.

 As everyone begins to carry out a plan to achieve their new year's resolution, I encourage your child to review the goals he/she has set for improvement this term. Goals should be revisited frequently to ensure students are taking appropriate steps to achieve them. Your support in assisting your child to set high expectations and monitor his/her progress is greatly appreciated.

Kindergarten Registration

Just a reminder that registration for all children who are eligible to attend either Junior or Senior Kindergarten for September 2023 will continue to take place this month. Accurate enrollment projections are key to getting funding from the Ministry of Education and to the Board's budget process. If you have a child, or know of anyone who has a child who will be attending Junior Kindergarten this fall (or Senior Kindergarten) and is not attending school now, please make sure they register at their home school for the fall. At this point, we do not have direction of whether there will be a virtual option for next school year, so we are working under the assumption that all students will be back in brick and mortar schools for the fall.

The following information will assist you with the registration process: Junior Kindergarten students must be 4 as of December 31, 2023. Senior Kindergarten students must be 5 as of December 31, 2023. Verification of age must be provided by birth or statement of live birth (or equivalent). Complete immunization information must also be brought to register. Proof of address is also required.

As always, I can be reached at (705) 742-9773 ext. 3601 or at stephen_fisher@kprdsb.ca

Stephen Fisher (Principal)

Important Dates

1 - February 3 - P.A. Day (no school)

February 20 - Family Day (no school)

February 21 - Report Cards Go Home

Character Development - Responsibility

"Do what is expected ....

Hold yourself accountable for your choices.

School Spirit Wear

Virtual Elementary School spirit wear - check out our VES SWAG!

Student Attendance

Every child in Ontario must attend school from age 6 to 18. It's still policy for the 2021-2022 school year.

At the KPR Virtual Elementary School, taking accurate daily attendance and making every attempt to engage our students remotely is more essential than ever. It is also more challenging than ever!

We know that showing up matters, and that when students show up to learn, they are more likely to be able to stay on-track, stay engaged and meet major educational milestones. At VES, our staff has

dedicated themselves to track students participation in synchronous learning, in regular task completion in their online classrooms and whether or not they access their virtual learning regularly.

Participation is more than simply measuring electronically whether students are logging on. It is measuring at a human level whether a student is showing up for an entire class, including whole class lessons, breakout sessions with groups of classmates, or individual assessments with their teachers. Doing so, acknowledges that our staff has been able to contact a family, ensure connectivity, and support engagement and relationship building. **We encourage student participation, such as responding to teacher questions, engaging in class discussions, posting to chats and submitting completed assignments.**

Safe Arrival

Students are expected to log on to their Google Meet or WebEx at 8:45 am or a couple of minutes before to ensure connectivity. Attendance is completed by educators and submitted to the main office by 9 am daily.

*If you are reporting your child(ren) absent or late please be sure to select **Virtual Elementary School** when you submit the absence to School Messenger.*

Our school participates in the SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM. It is the responsibility of parents to use the Safe Arrival program to indicate if a student will be absent or late for the day. Our current program, "SchoolMessenger", allows parents/guardians to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently in any of the following ways:

- • by calling 1-844-434-8119 toll-free

- • or go to studentabsence.kprdsb.ca prior to the start time

- • by installing and using the SchoolMessenger app for your iOS or Android device

If you have difficulty please contact the VES office at (705) 760-8620 or 1-877-741-4577 Ext. 3602

* Students will be marked absent if they are not participating in the virtual program as per the guidelines and the schedules established with the classroom teacher.

Virtual Elementary School Expectations

*2 - **DAILY VES SCHEDULE***

8:45 to 9:55 – Learning Block 1 – Literacy or Mathematics (70 min.)

9:55 to 10:15 – Recess (20 min.)

10:15 to 11:35 – Learning Block 2 – Literacy or Mathematics (80 min.)

11:35 to 12:15 – Lunch (40 min.)

12:15 to 1:35 – Learning Block 3 – (80 min.)

1:35 to 1:55 – Recess (20 min.)

1:55 to 3:05 – Learning Block 4 – (70 min.)

KPR Guidelines for Working Safely with Technology

Ensuring the protection of privacy and the cybersecurity of educators, students, and parents are paramount to supporting a safe and inclusive learning environment for virtual learning. **During virtual learning, parents are responsible for the supervision and safety of their children in the home learning environment.** If your family requires technology to participate in the program please complete the linked google form for either a Chrome book or Mifi connectivity device.

During virtual learning, teachers will provide opportunities for students to engage in synchronous learning and must adhere to the following requirements:

1. Minimum Requirements for Engaging Students in Virtual Learning

- Students and parents/guardians will be provided with a daily schedule or timetable that includes 300 minutes of learning opportunities, with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning activities.

- Programming will be based on the full Ontario curriculum and include opportunities for guided instruction, large- and small-group learning, synchronous check-ins, and asynchronous independent work.

- Educators will be available to students during the educators' assigned teaching timetables, as they would be if they were face-to-face in a classroom setting.

2. Minimum Requirements for Synchronous Learning

- It is expected that synchronous learning will be provided for large and small groups of students each day, in a manner similar to in-person classroom teaching. Synchronous learning time may include students working independently and in small groups while engaged in a virtual classroom with the teacher overseeing their learning and available for questions. The synchronous learning requirements are a part of the 300-minute instructional day during which educators remain available to students.

- Kindergarten Synchronous time 180 min per day (asynchronous 120min/day)

- Grades 1-8 Synchronous time 225 min per day (asynchronous 75 min/day)

- Additional group meetings may take place between educators and students as needed to address specific learning needs. This will ensure that students are engaged in their learning with appropriate levels of support.
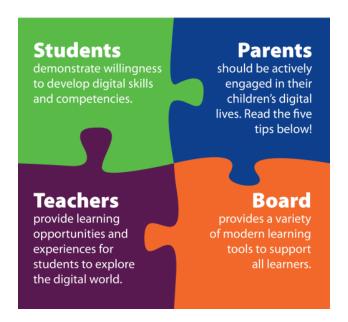
Kids Help Phone

Mental Health and Wellbeing matter here at VES. A resource we are including for students and families: The Kids Help Phone booklet, "No Problem To Big or Too Small", this wellness and help seeking resource can be used by all students, and certainly any student that may be struggling.

Digital Citizenship

Now, as never before, we have an obligation to teach students their rights and responsibilities as digital citizens. Visit the **_KPR Digital Citizenship Webpage_** for information and resources for educators, students and parents.

Five Key Tips for Digital Parenting:

Before you get started, here are five key tips for guiding your kids to safe and responsible digital lives:

1. Don't be scared!

You hear a lot of scary stuff about kids and the internet, but the fact is that most kids do just fine. Think of the internet as being like a swimming pool: the best way to keep your kids safe there is to teach them how to stay safe.

2. Talk to your kids.

Don't wait until things have already gone wrong to talk to your kids about online issues, and don't just have one "big talk." What your kids need from you is _guidance_, so they're prepared to deal with problems before they happen, support from you when things do go wrong, and for you to _reinforce_ these messages by continuing to talk to them as they get older and are more able to make decisions for themselves. The three main sections of this guide have lots of tips on how to talk about all of the major online issues. If you have older kids and haven't talked to them about the internet yet, don't worry: it's never too late to start!

3. Be a part of your kids' media lives.

What your kids are watching, playing, reading and listening to is a big part of the person they're turning into, and their online lives can be just as important to them as the "real world." Younger kids are usually glad when their parents show an interest in the things they like, so get them to show you how their new favourite game works or why they're so excited about joining a new social network. You can also use media to talk about sensitive issues: kids may be more comfortable talking about sexting or bullying when you're discussing a character in a TV show than someone they know.

4. Be the person your kids come to when they have problems online.

A lot of the time, kids don't want to go to their parents when things go wrong because they're afraid they'll get in trouble. When your kids start going online make sure they know clear procedures on what to do if things go wrong, like if they can't figure out a game or they accidentally access something unpleasant. If they're in the habit of coming to you about the little things, they'll be a lot more likely to talk to you about the big ones.

5. Set rules and communicate values.

The internet may seem like the Wild West sometimes, but the rules you set still affect how kids behave online. What's most important is that your rules are a way of getting across the value you want your kids to live by, that way they'll keep living by them even when they're grown up and out on their own.

Tips for Parents

KPR Remote Learning - Tips for Parents

Here are 10 suggestions to help parents support their children's success while learning at home.

Be Present. You know your child best. Some children will require significant support to manage the technology. In the regular classroom some children require reminders to stay focused on their work. It can be difficult for the educator to refocus their students virtually. Your presence to assist your child supports the learning of the class as a whole. Please consider your child's ability to attend to the class and support them accordingly.

Establish routines. Set regular hours for schoolwork that reflect the needs of family members. A regular routine will support everyone – encourage movement, take breaks and keep normal bedtime routines.

Identify a work space. Establish a space where children will learn most of the time - a quiet space where parents can supervise and support their children's learning.

Communicate with Educators. Educators will communicate regularly through email, or phone for those who do not have access to the Internet. The frequency of these connections will be based, in part, on your children's needs.

Regular Check-Ins. Check-in regularly with your children to help them understand instructions, organize themselves and set priorities. Great questions include: What are the learning goals or big ideas? What resources do you require? What support do you need?

Help your children own their learning. Group discussions, asking questions, and collaborating on projects are part of a normal school day. Some of these social interactions are recreated online, but your child will also need to complete their work as independently as possible. If your child is struggling, please contact the teacher.

Establish time/space for quiet and reflection. Families with multiple children may have challenges managing their children's learning needs. Siblings may need to work in different rooms to avoid distraction. Consider using headphones if they are available.

Encourage physical activity. Movement and exercise are vitally important for health, well-being and learning. Frequent breaks for movement are encouraged.

Be mindful of your child's stress or worry. Your continued attention to your children's questions and concerns is important. You can provide reassurance by listening and talking with them.

Stay social, but set guidelines. If your child uses social media to connect with peers, encourage responsible use of technology – being respectful and appropriate in communicating with others is very important.

Contact Information

Virtual Elementary School

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KPRDSB Board Office

705-742-9773

1-877-741-4577

A technology-related problem or issue ICT p**ress 1**

Principal: Stephen Fisher **Ext. 3601**

stephen_fisher@kprdsb.ca

Head Secretary: Elenore Badgley **Ext. 3600 press 0**

Visit us on the web

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