



**Grades K-12  
SD 22 Vernon BC  
Distributed Learning**

**Information Handbook**



**What is vLearn.ca?**

Vernon Virtual Learning is a public Distributed Learning School serving the province of British Columbia since 1996, located in School District 22, Vernon. vLearn.ca focuses on providing high quality K-12 programs and services delivered in a variety of learning formats. We respect the learning needs of all students and offer online and onsite distributed learning services in asynchronous, synchronous and blended learning formats.

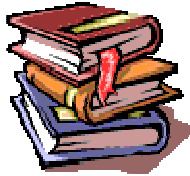
Our **K-7** program is designed for parents and students who need flexibility in time/location; parents who wish to take a greater role in their child's development; and students who require an alternative to the traditional classroom. It is mostly paper-based with some online choices and features f2f (face to face) activities within our community. Grade 7 courses are mostly online.

Most of our **8-12** courses are online. vLearn.ca is home to the provincially recognized Virtual Class Program which features live, online classes in senior sciences, calculus and humanities courses. Depending on their learning style, students in Grades 10-12 who are registered at other schools in BC can take courses through vLearn.ca.

## Guidelines

vLearn.ca students must comply with Ministry of Education guidelines which state:

- Learners are required to follow the prescribed learning outcomes of the BC Curriculum and meet the required areas of study
- Learners are required to attend to their schooling on a full time basis, although the specific hours and times may vary
- Students must be formally assessed three times per year
- Resources must reflect the BC Curriculum and be Ministry or approved upon consultation with staff
- Resources used as part of the educational program or for assessment purposes must not include religious-based materials
- Education is directed and supervised by a BC certified teacher



## Goals of the Program

- To provide an individualized program and education plan
- To fulfill the learning outcomes prescribed by the Ministry of Education
- To provide resources that support the learning outcomes
- To provide and support an alternative, flexible education program
- To encourage and support students and parents in their education goals
- To encourage intellectual growth and assess and document that growth regularly
- To provide access to certified teachers
- To provide access to programs, classes and activities which enhance and augment the curriculum

## What does vLearn.ca expect of you?

Most of our students complete their work at home or if in Grade 10-12, at a traditional school if they also attend there. Students may also be traveling or may drop in occasionally at one of our facilities. Frequent contact with your teacher is necessary to support and monitor progress. Complete your work in a month or a year—the choice is yours.

**Assessment** – In grades k-7 parents and teachers work together to determine student progress and formal assessment takes place 3 times/year to evaluate learning outcomes and progress. Students submit completed assignments and portfolios.

**Contact** - Frequent contact with parent/student may include phone calls, e-mail (all families are required to have e-mail access), scheduled office visits, or participation in group activities.

**Deposit** - Each family must pay a \$50 refundable resource deposit.

## Learning Resources

vLearn.ca provides the resources, support and instructional assistance students need to complete a program. Online learning resources such as SuccessMaker, World Book Online, Gr.4-7 online French & “What in the World” current events, online guitar (gr. 8-12) are available at no extra charge. Grade 1-12 students enrolled on September 30 can receive a learning resource and activity subsidy for fine arts, sports programs, Internet connection, and other approved resources that support the educational plan. (Contact vLearn for details.) Kindergarten funding is half. The Ministry of education requires that resource subsidies be pre-approved and paid for directly by the school. Funding is subject to being active in the educational plan, maintaining frequent contact, and, for students in Grades 4 & 7, participation in the Foundation Skills Assessment. All materials purchased with the subsidy remain the property of vLearn and must be returned upon completion or withdrawal.

## On-Site Programs

vLearn.ca provides a wide range of programs throughout the year. Activities include swimming, curling, skating, skiing, Allan Brooks Nature Centre, Science Centre, Davison Orchards, Artists in Schools, etc. Other sessions may include workshops, concerts, writing, and technology. Elementary classes include Music, PE, Art and French. See website calendar for events.

## Computers

Families may opt for the use of a vLearn.ca computer and an additional refundable computer deposit of \$50 is required. The resource subsidy will be reduced by \$350. The computer is to be used for educational reasons and **MUST** remain in the home of the specified student. A subsidy of up to \$300 is available for high-speed Internet service needed to support educational plan.

## Resources

vLearn.ca provides print and technology resources to support the education plan. There is an on-site library of curriculum texts and student books, unit studies organized by grade and subject area, and developmental reading material.

vLearn.ca also has a library of CD ROMs and online courses. Technical support is provided when necessary.

Parents have access to the SD22 District Resource Centre which houses books, scientific equipment, kits and a wide range of educational media.

## Online Programs

**SuccessMaker** delivers multimedia mathematics and reading courses from Grades K-9. The software is highly adaptive, starting with an automatic placement procedure, and then moving forward, concept by concept and strand by strand, based on demonstrated mastery.

**vLearn.ca** offers a web-based delivery model for Grades 7-12 curriculum, including both core and elective courses. Programs include asynchronous, synchronous and blended courses to best suit individual strengths and needs.

We also have online Guitar 8-12, Elementary French and French 10-12 available.

Additional software may be supplied as needed.

## Special Needs

vLearn.ca staff can provide short-term remedial assistance. If you have specific needs such as speech therapy, counseling, or formal learning assistance or assessment, please consult with our staff.

## Portfolio Assessment

The purpose of a portfolio is to provide products and artifacts that demonstrate student acquisition of skills and knowledge. Student portfolios should contain dated samples of work collected throughout the year.

Portfolios should be developed within the instructional goals. Each item included should also include the expectations the student was given to complete the task. Portfolios are to be submitted during the assessment interview.

Ideas for products/artifacts to include:

|            |              |                         |                   |
|------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| diagrams   | models       | photographs             | worksheets        |
| story maps | book reports | PowerPoint presentation | research projects |
| posters    | poetry       | learning log            | tests             |
| letters    | script       | audio tapes             | stories           |
| web site   | diorama      | video tapes             | charts            |

## Grades 8-12 Programs

Secondary students enrolling in the vLearn.ca Program will complete the Ministry-prescribed learning outcomes by following a common curriculum. The secondary curriculum is delivered online through a learning management system (Moodle).

Advance planning and regular attendance to studies are key to student success. Though students will notice that their schedules are more flexible than those of traditional high schools, the workload is comparable.

The best candidates for this learning experience are organized and self-motivated with realistic goals.

## **Responsibilities of Stakeholders**

- Role of vLearn.ca Staff
  - Ensure program meets prescribed Provincial curriculum
  - Develop student learning plan with the student and parent
  - Supervise student's educational program
  - Provide and/or approve curricular learning resources
  - Assess and report on student progress
  - Provide programs, workshops, and classes when the need arises
  - Maintain regular contact with families to ensure student success
  - Provide, develop and modify curriculum
- Role of the Parent(s)
  - Develop an educational plan with vLearn.ca staff
  - Inform staff of problems with progress or curriculum
  - Facilitate the learning process
  - Maintain regular contact with vLearn.ca staff
  - Develop motivational strategies to keep your child interested and excited about learning
  - Set reasonable daily goals and develop time management with your child
  - Work with vLearn.ca staff to continually monitor student progress
- Role of the Student:
  - Commit to regular and continued study
  - Fulfill requirements in the time period agreed upon
  - Communicate problems and concerns to parents and/or vLearn.ca staff
  - Complete assignments to the best of your ability and ask questions when you don't understand something
  - Work with your parents and vLearn.ca staff to develop a learning plan
  - Engage in physical activities every day
  - Be an educational risk taker and endeavor to be an effective problem solver
  - Work hard and have fun learning in a program designed specifically for them!
  - Contact teacher weekly through office visits, email or on-site programs and activities (K-7)

## **Registration Process**

- Registration begins in May/June - registrations are accepted up to September 30 with continual intakes
- Fill out an online application at vLearn.ca or pick up a registration form from us
- Birth certificate, Care Card number and refundable deposit are required with registration
- Following registration a Learning Plan is developed for each student in consultation with a vLearn.ca teacher
- Resources are then provided to deliver the curriculum and fulfill the student learning plan

## **Contact Information**

Check the Web Site: [vlearn.ca](http://vlearn.ca)

Call and talk to one of the staff: 250-542-0249 Toll Free: 1-888-605-3276

Contact Bruce Weitzel, Principal: 250-549-3546

Visit us at 2711 38<sup>th</sup> St. in the old West Vernon Elementary School library.