



Grand Erie District School Board

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Dear Families,

We know you are anxiously awaiting the start of our Grand Erie K-12 Virtual Academy. Many of you have questions about online learning, the availability of technology, and when your children can expect to begin their school year. As the letter shared last week said, it is our intention to have the Virtual Academy up and running before the end of next week (September 14 – 18). We understand this isn't as specific as anyone would like, and we apologize for that.

We are currently in the process of staffing the Virtual Academy with guidance counselors and subject teachers, and will provide more details to you once that process is complete. More information will be provided to you in the coming days, but for now, here are a few updates that we hope will answer some of your questions:

- To access the Virtual Learning Environment, visit www.granderie.ca. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on **Virtual Learning Environment** to log on.
- Students will use their Grand Erie login and password from their home school, the same one that they used to access Brightspace during remote learning this past spring. This login information can be used to access the Virtual Learning Environment any time, so students can familiarize themselves with the online learning space.
- Starting on Monday, September 14, 2020, students can begin by logging on to Brightspace and clicking on the link 'eStudent Resource.' This resource provides access to information that will help students refamiliarize themselves with online learning, and taking the quiz will help each subject teacher to learn more about their new online students.
- Students are currently being placed in their classes. Every effort is being made to match students with their requested course selections. Once teachers are assigned to those classes, they will connect with their students and families. Students are encouraged to check for new content on Brightspace as we move closer to a start date.
- Students who have an IEP will continue to have their program supported by the Learning Resource Teacher from their home school, who will be working in collaboration with the virtual classroom teacher.
- Families who previously requested technology/devices in the spring will still have these devices available for use. Requests from families with new technology needs are in the process of being fulfilled, and devices are being delivered to home schools. When the technology is available, your home school will contact you to arrange a time to pick it up.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we build our Virtual Academy and get set to begin the school year.

Kind regards,

Greg Carruthers, Principal
Dave MacDonald, Principal

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