

Online

# Rural Secondary Program Overview

Bringing the World of Learning to Remote Learners

## Rural Secondary Program – Mission

To create a virtual learning environment in which learners can develop a sense of belonging, excel as independent learners, better understand the world around them and prepare to contribute to society.



## Rural Secondary Program – Vision

Learners will connect regularly in a rigorous, high quality virtual classroom setting that expands their understanding and use of communication technology, immerses them in effective online instructional practices and gives students a place & enhanced understanding of the world around them.



## Rural Secondary Program– Program Goals

To enable high quality online education for remote and independent secondary students within their home communities.



Maximize the use of the strengths of school based and online teaching staff and community experts.

## What does this program do for learners?

Enables individual learners to make real time virtual connections with:

- Peers/classmates
- Expert teachers
- Presenters
- World views

Enables participation in learning without physical presence

Brings students & teachers together for field trips throughout the school year

Brings the experts to the learners

Creates learning bridges that span distance, culture & community differences





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## What does the program look like?

- Primarily focused on grade 8, 9 and 10 academic course
- Delivers English, Math, Social Studies and Science with expert teachers using current video conferencing, student management and tutorial technology
- In most cases gives students the support of two teachers; the course teacher and the classroom support teacher
- Enables schools to utilize community experts through the delivery of non-academic courses in their own buildings

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## Why are we educating students this way?

As enrolments have declined in School District No. 27, rural schools have seen a greater decline in both student populations and staff. These declines have put greater pressures on rural teachers to have expertise in a wider variety of subject areas.

Facing multi-grade classes, rural secondary teachers are faced with an enormous challenge meeting the educational needs of the wide range of students they face.

For remote and home-schooled students, the program provides a large class experience which they normally would not be able to experience.

In each rural school, the number of rural secondary students is very small. It is difficult to give these students meaningful large class experiences in this setting, such as group work, or large class discussions.

### **The Online Rural Secondary Program will:**

- Connect rural secondary students in social and academic class experiences
  - Give rural school teachers the ability to teach courses within their area of expertise
  - Decrease the number of secondary courses each teacher is required to prepare and teach
  - Bring expert teachers to students in their academic courses
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## How well is the program working?

Rural and remote student course pass rates have dramatically improved since the program started in September 2009.

- 2008/2009 (before the program) – the completion rate was 70%
- 2009/2010 – the completion rate improved to 81%
- 2010/2011 – the completion rate remained at 81%

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## What's in the Future?

School District No. 27 has been fortunate to have had the support of a Vancouver Foundation Grant for a number of years. The grant enabled us to expand our course offerings to rural, remote and Distance Education students beyond academic courses, to elective course, and even offer language programs.

### Electives now available are:

- Power Tech 9/10
- Rawhide Making 8/9/10
- Guitar 9/10
- French 8/9/10
- German 8/9/10
- Spanish 8/9/10
- Tech Metal 10 (Welding)
- Planning 10



## SD#27 Rural Secondary Program



For more information about the **Rural Secondary Program**, please contact your school principal or Jerome Beauchamp, Director of Instruction-Education Services or **Linda Black, Coordinator**

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