Homeschool Registered

- Acceleration and Retention Information for Registered Families
- HCOS Registered Students in Online Courses
- Registered Homeschooling with HCOS
- What to expect when moving from Registered to Enrolled?

Acceleration and Retention Information for Registered Families

Acceleration

Acceleration is the practice of placing students at a higher than normal level of instruction to meet their learning needs. It occurs when a teacher provides the student with an advanced curriculum, when a student skips a grade, or when a student takes a specific course at a higher level.

Students can be accelerated by grade, when they are advanced in all areas, or by subject. For example, in the latter case, a student in Grade 6 may be doing math at an advanced level and language arts at his age level.

HCOS supports acceleration as a strategy in the support of gifted students.

Retention

HCOS prefers grade promotion (students staying with their age levelled peers, with learning supports) over retaining students for the following reasons:

- The achievement and adjustment of students who are retained tends to be no better than those of comparable children who are promoted.
- Repeating a grade does not ensure that children will overcome the areas of deficiency.
- Students who repeat the same material without new instructional strategies tend not to attain the same levels of competence as students who are promoted.
- Retention affects students socially, emotionally and educationally.

Impact on Enrolling

HCOS recommends that if a family is considering either acceleration or retention, or has done so while registered, upon entering the enrolled program that they connect with the administrator for their region. If you are unsure who your local administrator is please reach out to office@onlineschool.ca Upon enrollment in an online program, previously registered students may be offered an assessment to help determine the appropriate level in which the student should study at.

HCOS Registered Students in Online Courses

Can my HCOS registered student take an online course?

Yes!

Grades 5-9: We are pleased to offer our registered students in grades 5 through 9 the flexibility of asynchronous online courses to support their unique educational plans. *(Please note that synchronous courses require special permission from the Assistant Director of Innovations and are dependent on enrollment availability.)* Integrated program offerings, such as TechLab and Seed, are not available for this pathway. Because registered students do not receive government funding, there is a tuition fee of $650 per online course for grades 5 to 7 and $300 per online course for grades 8 and 9.

Grades 10-12: HCOS Registered students in the grad program (grades 10-12) can take synchronous or asynchronous online courses with a tuition fee of $50 per course, as courses in the grad program are funded on a course by course basis.

> Please note that in grades 10-12 taking an online course starts the creation of a BC Transcript for your student.

What courses can I take?

Please see our course directory here.

How do I apply?

Please fill out our application through our cross enrollment division, BC Online School.
Select the appropriate grade level and course you wish to apply for.

> In the ‘How did you hear about us?’ box, please include under Other: Registered Student. This will help us expedite the application.

Registered Homeschooling with HCOS

Parent Responsibilities

Through the registered homeschool option, families have the freedom and responsibility to design their child's homeschooling educational program (planning, delivery, and assessment) as students have opted out of the BC education system

Parents develop the learning plan, choose the curriculum and facilitate learning activities separate from the supervision of a teacher.

Getting Started as a Registered Homeschool Family with HCOS

In many ways, homeschooling starts in a child's first years. For instance, before children turn five, parents share their faith, read to their children, introduce number sense, explore nature and community, and encourage physical development. Homeschooling in the "school years" extends this foundation.

The homeschooling environment and approach may be different in each home. When developing an education plan, parents may consider their family's faith, the child's learning needs, gifts, and even their parenting approach. For instance, if one's parenting approach leans to the structured and scheduled side, one's homeschooling approach may be similar.

Many families consider this when choosing a curriculum. Some families first borrow curriculum from the HCOS Learning Commons to assess whether it will support their family's faith, child's needs, and "homeschool method/style" (e.g., classical, Charlotte Mason, unit study, unschooling, Montessori, school-at-home, etc). Parents may also choose which sections or pages of the curriculum to use with their children based on their learning needs and interests. Consider curriculum as tools; choose which tools will help you in different situations and times.

Learning Common Resources

While BC Ministry of Education funding is unavailable to registered homeschool students, Heritage Christian Online School (HCOS) provides various learning resources to registered homeschool families through the HCOS Learning Commons. To view the resources available to registered homeschool students, visit this page. For more details, refer to the Learning Commons for Families book in SOPHIE. To help families choose resources, the HCOS Learning Commons has compiled a list of recommended Curriculum Options.

HCOS Learning Groups

Registered homeschool students are invited to attend HCOS Learning Camps opportunities throughout the province. For more information on HCOS Learning Groups and Offerings, go here, and for more details, visit the HCOS Sophie Information for Families Learning Groups Book. Community Connections/+ are not available to registered homeschool students.

To receive an email notification for upcoming Learning Group opportunities in your chosen region, sign up for the HCOS Learning Groups "Get E-Alerts" for their BC region.

Registered Homeschooling in the Grad Years

Registered homeschool students cannot obtain a BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) by homeschooling alone. However, registered homeschool students may transfer to enrolled status in their Grades 10-12 to work towards a BC Dogwood Diploma.

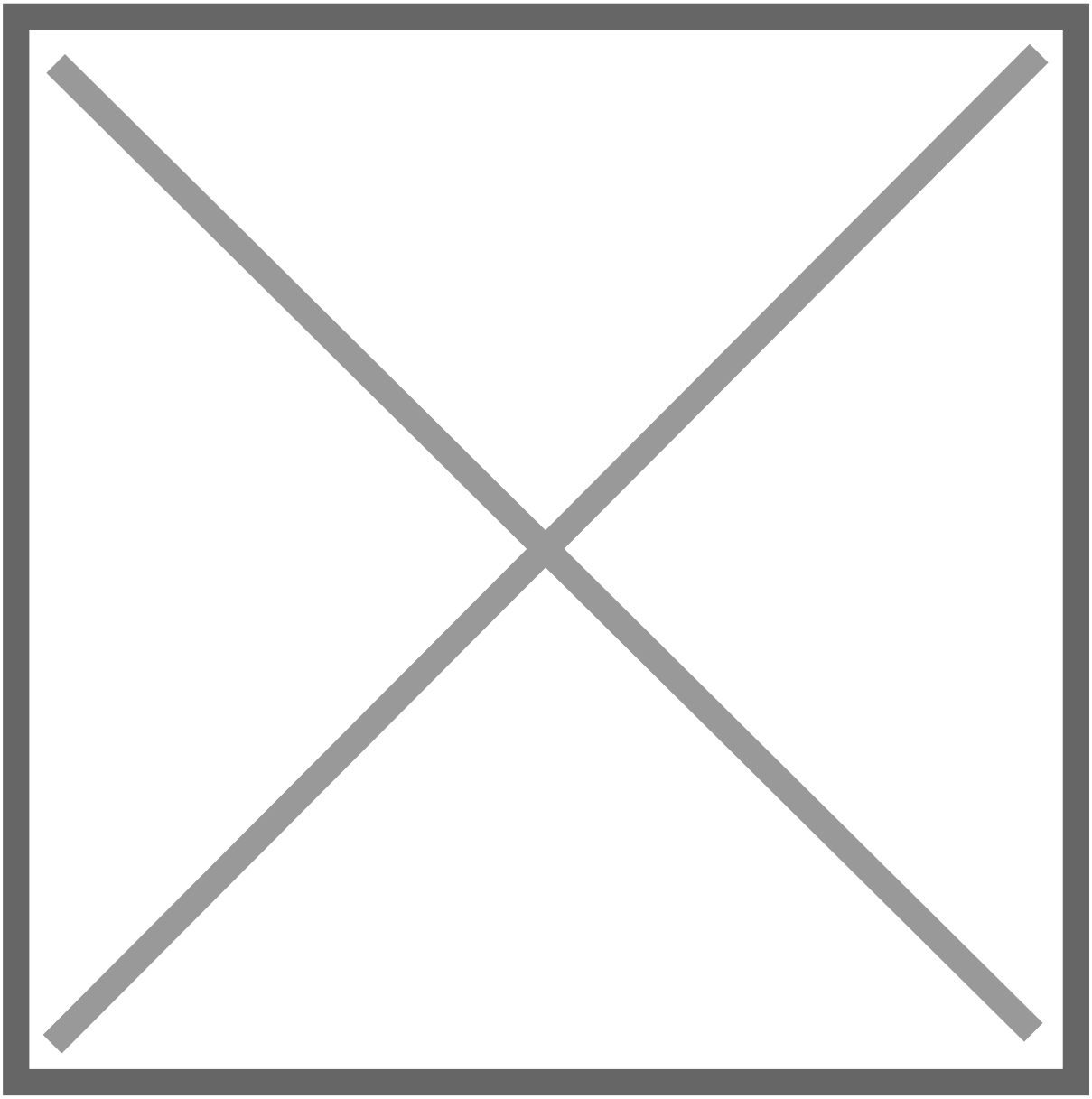
Grades 10-12 may take online courses through the BC Online School (a Department of Heritage Christian Online School) and retain their registered homeschool status. BCOS courses are BC accredited courses written by HCOS.

Many post-secondary institutions provide alternative admissions pathways. Registered homeschoolers interested in post-secondary institutions should approach the institution to research admission requirements and confirm eligibility. Once known, registered homeschool students can work towards pre-requisite requirements in their Grad years. In some cases, these may include accredited online courses.

BC Educational Learning Standards *(optional)*

While registered homeschoolers are **not** required to cover the provincial learning standards, some families use the learning standards as a general guideline in designing their educational plans. BC's Course Curriculum/Learning Standards.

Using the Continuous Views documents provides the incremental progression of the Learning Standards (Big Ideas, Competencies, and Content) over school years.



HCOS Registered Homeschool Liaison

Contact the HCOS Registered Homeschool Liaison, Claire Pollok, with further registered homeschool inquiries.

What to expect when moving from Registered to Enrolled?

Registered to Enrolled

Registered homeschool students cannot obtain a BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) by homeschooling alone. However, registered homeschool students may transfer to enrolled status for their Grades 10-12 years to work towards a BC Dogwood Diploma.

This process requires conversations around what concepts/courses have been covered and therefore which courses are a good starting place for your child. This may also involve an official challenge process in order for your child to receive course credit in an area of proficiency. See below for information on course challenges. Students may also be asked to complete numeracy or literacy assessments to help ensure their success in the courses they plan on taking.

For more on the BC Dogwood and requirements, please see here.

Course Challenge Information

What is challenge?

A course challenge is a means of awarding graduation credit for undocumented demonstrated prior learning. Students are entitled to use challenges to receive credit for Ministry-Development or Board/Authority Authorized Grade 10, 11, or 12 courses.

Challenge Process

A student can challenge a course if he or she:

- is currently enrolled in the school district, registered as a home schooler, or enrolled in the Distributed Learning school where the challenge is being requested; and
- has not already challenged the course and received a passing grade, or completed the course through previous enrollment, or has been granted equivalency for the course; and
- can give compelling evidence that he or she will succeed in the challenge assessment

Prior to engaging in a challenge process, schools must review any documentation of prior learning that a student presents in order to determine if credit can be awarded through equivalency.

The challenge process must assess students on all course learning outcomes (Gr. 11/12) OR curricular competencies and content (Gr. 10). Examples of challenge assessment strategies include hands-on demonstrations, oral performances, interviews, written examinations, or presentations of a collection of work. Provincial or sample exams must not be used for Challenge purposes.

The cost to challenge a course is $50 per course challenged. This course fee is over and above the tuition costs a student would normally pay during the course of a school year. A challenged course is not included in the course count for tuition in a school year.

Adult Dogwood Programing

In some cases, students struggle to make the transition or complete the required number of courses necessary to receive their Dogwood. In those situations, once they reach 18 an Adult Dogwood can be explored. This is not something we want to work towards or limit students with at an early age. It is important this is only considered an option once the student is 18 years of age.

Adult Grad Pres.pptx - Google Drive- great for parents