

# WELCOME TO BCA ONLINE!

*Join us for classes, tutorials, daily devotionals, chapels and worship*

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## Greetings & Gratitude:

Good afternoon, Deborah,

We have all been hard at work getting ready for the staggered launch of our online school platform which began officially at 10:00am this morning. I have been blessed by the enthusiasm of our staff and the positive communication from all of you. Thank you sincerely!

*Thank you to...*

- our Heavenly Father to whom we pray every day that we'll be able to turn this new crisis into new opportunities;
- our parents and students for your graciousness and support;
- our staff for their willingness to stretch their learning and grow into this new challenge;
- our Information Systems and Distance Learning departments who have helped us with technological resources and training;
- our school division that has kept in constant communication with us and provided us with answers and support;
- our Briercrest family who have all switched pathways to an online platform along with us!

We are privileged to continue reaching out to our students to guide them in their educational journeys; we are committed to praying for them and encouraging them in the Lord as we learn in these new ways together!

[Welcome Back devotional from Mrs. Ike: "Certainty in Uncertain Times"](#)  
(on Canvas)

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## What's available online?

- **EVERYTHING IS IN CANVAS**
- **"Daily Life @ BCA"** Canvas course:
  - revitalized version of the "BCA Announcements" course
    - continues to host the "Daily Announcements"
  - **new** features:
    - This "course" is now highlighted in red and should appear at the top of your course selections in Canvas.

- "How to...?" tutorial videos (help for students and parents to access and navigate online courses and resources; section under construction)
  - "Daily Devotionals with BCA Staff" (videos & texts)
    - started on Monday, March 30
  - "Chapels with Caleb" (videos Wednesdays & Fridays)
    - start on Wednesday, April 1
  - \*"Devotionals with BCA Students" (videos & texts)
  - \*"Worship with BCA" (videos & audio files)
    - I've posted a link to a cellphone choir for inspiration!
- all semester 2 courses continued in an online format
  - staggered start began today at 10:00am
- online, interactive tutorials with teachers twice daily except on Fridays (10am-11am; 2pm-3pm)
  - afternoon tutorials start Wednesday, April 1 at 2pm; morning tutorials will be added Thursday, April 2
- all semester 3 courses/credits repackaged into an online format (with appropriate alternative "Special Projects Credits" available to replace specific classes TBD)

\**Students*, we want you to send us short videos of original devotionals and/or your original worship songs or your recorded covers of worship songs! Send your video or audio files to [Caleb Willems](#) for posting to our "Daily Life @ BCA" site and/or to our "[wearebca](#)" Instagram. **Stay connected!**

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## Online Classes: How to navigate your courses in Canvas

Getting the most out of your online classes:

1. Go to your **Canvas account** like normal to access your existing semester 2 Canvas courses; the teachers have simply reformatted and enhanced their existing Canvas work, so you can easily pick up where you left off. No new links or locations.
2. The landing page or "**home**" page of each of your Canvas courses will be your new **guide** to progressing through your class work, step by step.
  1. If you are accessing Canvas through a computer, the home page of the course will automatically populate into the center of your

- screen; the other "locations" in the course will be featured in a vertical command ribbon on the left side of your screen.
2. If you are accessing Canvas through an app on your phone, click the "Home" button at the top of the list of "locations" available in the course.
  3. The home page of each course will either be formatted into **modules** or into a **"front text page."**
    1. Modules will most often be used for science, math and PAA courses made of up self-contained units that move sequentially from one module to the next.
      1. Modules will appear as folders/categories with sub-folders/sub-categories organized in order of skill and content progression.
      2. Front text pages will most often be used for humanities-based courses that integrate elements from a variety of modules into daily learning.
        1. The text on the front page will lay out your learning activities, resources and assignments according to a daily schedule.
    4. **Introductory comments and orientation instructions** from your teachers will appear at the top of the course home page.
      1. In this section, your teachers will help you understand the key learning objectives and assignments that will be the focus of the remainder of the courses. AND
      2. They will explain how they would like you to communicate with them and submit assignments to them.
    5. **Pre-recorded instructional videos** will be included in the learning materials for each module or topic, along with additional resources and assignments.
    6. Instructions for accessing **online tutorials** through Zoom or on the telephone with your teachers will appear in the top portion of the home page.
    7. To get started, **pick up where you left off** and follow your teacher's instructions. If you're not sure where you left off, [email your teacher](#) for more details.
      1. In a course organized according to modules, you will likely pick up at the end of the last module you studied while you were in class.
      2. In a course organized according to dates, you will likely start at the lesson labelled "Tuesday, March 31."

8. Whether you are in a modules-based or a dates-based online course, your teacher will have likely **hyperlinked** in the **learning activities**, resources, videos and assignments that you need. Wherever you see text underlined or prefaced with a "link" logo, you can follow the hyperlink to the relevant material.

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## Zoom: What is Zoom? Do I need it?

Zoom is the app that most of the world is now using to facilitate **learning online**. It enables us to:

- pre-record **videos and tutorials**;
- host (and record as needed) one-on-one or multi-user meetings and tutorials online through video conferencing; and
- connect you into an online tutorial through a telephone for audio only interaction.

Do you need to download it?

- **No**...if you want to keep things basic.
    - All of the teachers' pre-recorded videos will be uploaded to their Canvas courses and will be embedded into their content for viewing within Canvas or within a separate window.
    - By simply **following the link** we provide for tutorials, you will arrive at the correct location online. Likewise, you can phone the number we provide in order to join the tutorials with audio only.
  - **Yes**...if you want all the features.
    - At this point, I don't anticipate that students will need to download Zoom in order to participate fully in our online tutorials; however, if they want to start creating their own videos and content, then a free version of Zoom is available for download to a computer or through iOS or android apps for cellphones and other mobile devices.
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## Daily Tutorials: How do I connect to them? When do they happen? How do I navigate within them?

***When?\****

- Monday - Thursday:
  - AM Tutorial: 10:00am - 11:00am (start Thursday, April 2)
  - PM Tutorial: 2:00pm - 3:00pm (start Wednesday, April 1)
- Friday:
  - AM Tutorial: 10:00am - 11:00am

Note: International students who live in significantly different time zones are invited to contact their teachers and/or tutors through Canvas to arrange alternate Zoom tutorials to support their learning. Teachers may record their regularly-scheduled tutorial Zoom sessions for such students or provide alternate times for discussion if possible.

***How?\****

- Follow the links provided in your Canvas courses OR here:
  - ALL AM Tutorials: <https://briercrest.zoom.us/j/927122824>
    - **(Meeting ID: 927 122 824)**
  - ALL PM Tutorials: <https://briercrest.zoom.us/j/796751870>
    - **(Meeting ID: 796 751 870)**

\*Full details (includes specific dates, times, links for online connections & phone numbers for audio-only calls)

***Instructions for Navigating Within Your Tutorials:***

1. **Follow the link** above; your computer will offer you two choices:
  1. Continue following the link to the online Zoom page if you don't have Zoom downloaded onto your device. OR
  2. Open your Zoom app if you have it downloaded onto your device.
2. When you arrive at the **BCA main page**, you will be talking with Jolene Resch in our front office. You will either see our BCA crest or Jolene herself. You may see a message that asks you to wait a moment while she helps another student.
  1. Ask her to put you into the tutorial with the **teacher of your choice**.
    1. Consult each course home page to confirm times when your teacher will be available. For example, half-time

teachers will only be available during either the AM or the PM sessions.

2. You will get a message inviting you to go to your requested teacher's "**Breakout Zoom tutorial.**" Click "Yes."
  1. If you don't get a message, click the "Breakout" icon on the command ribbon on the bottom of your Zoom window. It may display the option to proceed to the teacher's tutorial.
3. You will be **virtually redirected** into your teacher's tutorial breakout session. Here you will be able to talk with your teacher, see other classmates, watch your teacher share his/her screen to provide detailed responses and/or or to share your screen with your teacher if needed. You can mute your microphone if you simply want to listen.
  1. Please note that these tutorial sessions may be recorded for the purposes of sharing these learning experiences with other BCA students within Canvas.
4. When you are finished in that tutorial breakout session, you will have two choices offered in the bottom right-hand corner of your Zoom window:
  1. Select "**End Meeting**" and close Zoom if you have no other teachers to meet with.
  2. Select "**Return to Main Session**" to return to the BCA home page and ask Jolene to move you into the next breakout session of your choice. Follow the instructions in #3 and #4 until you have met with all of your teachers.

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## Recommended daily schedule for students studying from home:

You and your parents can decide together the schedule that will best **suit your individual needs**, especially in light of the other challenges in our daily lives. However, we have structured our learning tutorials to enable you to move through all of your semester's courses as efficiently as possible. Here's one way you could consider organizing your day to **take advantage of the "tutorial sandwich approach"** (work-tutorial-work):

- 9:00am - 9:50am: **Work** on course materials; keep note of questions or difficult parts. If you can't proceed with one activity, move on to another activity or a different course.

- INSERT BREAKS AS NEEDED
- 10:00am - 11:00am: Go online to your **AM Tutorial** with the teacher(s) of your choice. Ask your questions so that you'll be able to keep working on your challenging assignments.
- 11:10am - 12:00pm: **Work** on course materials; follow up with the work about which you asked your questions while the answers are fresh in your mind. Record any more questions as they arise.
- LUNCH
- 1:00pm - 1:50pm: **Work** on course materials; keep note of questions or difficult parts. If you can't proceed with one activity, move on to another activity or a different course.
- 2:00pm - 3:00pm: Go online to your **PM Tutorial** with the teacher(s) of your choice. Ask your questions so that you'll be able to keep working on your challenging assignments.
- 3:10pm - 3:30pm: **Work** on course materials; follow up with the work about which you asked your questions while the answers are fresh in your mind. Record any more questions as they arise.

Make it more fun: study online with a friend through Zoom or Skype.

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## Q & A: Answers to recent questions

To avoid confusion, I will not repeat here the answers to the questions answered in the previous newsletter entitled "BCA Online Education Plan" unless I now have updated details to offer.

### ***Do I have to fill out the BCA Online Learning Survey?***

Yes, please. In order for us to ensure that all of our students stay on their appropriate graduation track, we need to know what your plan is and how we can best help you. We asked each parent to complete this short "[BCA Online Learning Survey](#)" prior to Tuesday, March 31 at 9:00am. *If you still have not completed this survey, you should have received an additional invitation via email today requesting that you submit the survey on the linked Google form.*

### ***Can I change my mind about my online learning plan?***

Yes. After you submit your "[BCA Online Learning Survey](#)", you should receive a return email that displays the selections you submitted on the



survey. At the top of this email will be an option to "Edit Google Form." Click on this link, return to your form and update your responses. As teachers have already reviewed your responses based on the March 31 9:00am due date, please *also* notify Jolene as well as the teachers of any courses affected by your changes. We want to ensure that we are submitting the correct marks for your child.

***If I commit to online learning, can I leave before the end of the course?***

Yes. Your learning plan is fully customizable. When you return to online learning--either for mark improvement or for audit--you can withdraw at any time thereafter. If you choose to withdraw before the end of the course, please notify Jolene and your affected teachers so that we can ensure that we submit the correct marks for you.

***Can my mark go down if I audit or continue with online learning?***

No. You have a completely risk-free learning opportunity. If you submit assignments to your teachers--either for marks or for feedback through audit--your mark cannot go down from what it was as of March 19. If you end up with a lower mark at the end of the course than you had as of March 19, we will submit the higher of the two marks. You have nothing to lose, and everything to gain.

## **Graduation 2020**

***What are the plans for Graduation 2020?***

We know how important graduation events are to our students and their parents, friends and extended families. They are deeply meaningful for our entire staff and Briercrest family as well. This is the first time in my teaching career that we have encountered a situation that might require us to postpone our graduation activities. I know that this will be full of emotion for many of our students and their families. Graduations are pivotal and well-earned landmarks in our life experiences and should be well-celebrated. Although we cannot control COVID-19, we will do our best to respond to the needs of our graduates and their families to the best of our ability given the current restrictions.

Our traditional BCA Graduation experience is unique in the landscape of Canadian education. The current SK Ministry of Health guidelines prohibit gatherings in excess of 10 people and recommend that they not exceed 5 people. As a result, we will not be able to run our graduation weekend in our traditional format--unless the public health situation in Saskatchewan changes significantly by that time. We are currently exploring options for creating a special graduation program in an online/live-

streamed format and/or for hosting a graduation program at some point during the fall. As the SK Ministry of Health provides ongoing updates, we will keep you posted with developments in our planning.

Our current priority is creating quality online educational opportunities for our students in their semester 2 classes. As we move forward, we will be able to dedicate time to exploring options for graduation ceremonies. This will likely include conducting a survey of our graduating students and their parents for their input.

### ***What are the plans for the Grad 2020 Cap & Gown and Photo Gallery photo shoots?***

We were just about to circulate our comprehensive "Graduation 2020" MailChimp newsletter with all of the information about our planned commencement-related activities when the Ministry of Education ordered all SK schools to close. If schools do not re-open prior to June 2020, our graduation activities will either have to be postponed or repackaged into an online format.

This year, we had contracted with Jen Froese of [framedbyjen](#) to provide a combined photography package; this was to include both the traditional "cap & gown" shots, as well as our unique photojournalistic "Grad Photo Gallery" featuring personalized photo shoots with Jen as well as access to an online gallery of the professional photos taken throughout the graduation weekend. This is a very special part of our BCA tradition. Unfortunately, these plans have been put on hold indefinitely due to the government restrictions surrounding COVID-19.

In the event that schools re-open by the beginning of June, we could most likely still proceed with our graduation activities, including the photography package; however, if schools do not re-open by this time, the COVID-19 restrictions will prevent such an opportunity. I would imagine, but cannot currently guarantee without expanded consultation with Jen, that we could offer students the option of the photo package in the fall if we proceed with a postponed graduation event. We recognize, however, that not all students would be able to take advantage of such an opportunity.

### ***Will I get a refund for a portion of the graduation fee?***

In the next couple of weeks, I plan to create a survey offering all of our graduates and their families the chance to weigh in on whether they would most value proceeding with an online format for grad or postponing a more traditional graduation until an appropriate time in the fall. Students have already received some of the items covered by the graduation fees,

such as the "Grad Retreat" at the beginning of the year and the graduation hoodies. If we host an online or live-streamed event, we will incur some related expenses. If we postpone to the fall, our graduation expenses would stay largely the same, though some students would not be able to attend in person. When we have established the parameters of the modifications to our graduation plans in more detail, we will explore issuing partial refunds for certain portions of graduation fees that have been collected.

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## Office Hours & Contact Information:

### *Who should I contact if I have questions?*

Student Financial Services: [Kathy Brandt](#)

General inquiries or issues with Zoom or Canvas: [Jolene Resch](#)

Course-specific questions: [teachers](#)

Credits, graduation track or course planning: [Derek Zacharias](#)

Additional help and learning support: [Michelle Grove](#)

Spiritual support: [Caleb Willems](#) and/or [any staff member](#)

Counseling support: [Briercrest Health & Counseling Services](#)

International students (ENGLISH+ program): [Angela Lim](#)

Suggestions for improvement; questions of philosophy of education; exceptional circumstances: everything else: [Deborah Ike](#)

### *Office Hours for BCA Online Learning School:*

M-R: 9:00am - 3:30pm

F: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Please note that the calendar for the remainder of semester 2 is detailed in the former newsletter entitled "BCA Online Education Plan."

**Deborah Ike**

*Principal*

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[briercrest.ca](http://briercrest.ca)

**BCA Policies (COVID-19 Section at Top)**

**BCA Online Learning Survey**

**Canvas**

**"WeAreBCA" Instagram**

**Zoom Tutorials @ BCA**

**PSSD Website**



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