



Teacher Information Package Pilot: Rural Remote Program 2021

Teacher Application

Philosophy: Beyond Classrooms Kingston empowers children to be culturally aware lifelong learners and active citizens. The program connects teachers and their students to community spaces for a week, where cultural sites serve as a catalyst for student-driven and teacher-led inquiry-based learning. Students slow down their learning, look closely, and reflect through journal writing and sketching.

Site information: There is one week available for different grade ranges at our partner sites. See page 3 of the *Teacher Information Package* for specific dates and more information about each site.

Cost: The regular \$750 fee is being waived as part of the pilot project thanks to a partnership with the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area (CFKA).

Application Process: The teacher and students are the driving force of a Beyond Classrooms experience. Applicants should show they are willing to put in the necessary planning and effort to create a successful learning experience for their class. Teachers must seek and receive Principal approval before applying.

After acceptance: Successful applicants will be notified by October 1st. The Coordinator must be notified of any changes to the application once accepted. Continued acceptance is dependent upon approval of those changes. Contact the Coordinator for an updated Cancellation Policy.

How to apply: Read through the Teacher Information Package. Complete the *Teacher Application* via the Google Form: <https://forms.gle/paWeKZCBdnqZyRS19>. Check the box to request confirmation of your application. If you do NOT receive confirmation that your application has been submitted, or you have any difficulties filling out the application, please contact the Coordinator by email at coordinator@beyondclassrooms.ca or phone 613-484-1874.

Important dates (flexible times/dates):

- September 27th: Application deadline. Teacher will be notified of acceptance by October 1st.
- October 5-6th: Teachers will review orientation materials and resources and participate in a 1.5 hour orientation session via Teams (dates/time will be worked out with teacher).
- October 12-14: First planning meeting with BCK Coordinator online (1-1.5 hours, flexible time)
- October 6 – 23: Students participate in asynchronous journal/inquiry activities
- October 20-21: Second planning meeting with Coordinator and Site staff (online) (1-1.5 hours, flexible)
- October 26-28: Student journal workshops to take place (remotely, flexible time and date)
- November 8 – December 3: Your class will participate in 4-6 online sessions with BCK/site.
- December 6-13: Class may participate in consolidation/celebration of learning project

Contact information: Contact the BCK Program Coordinator at coordinator@beyondclassrooms.ca or 613-484-1874 should you have any questions about the application or Beyond Classrooms Kingston.



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What is the BCK Rural Remote Program?

Beyond Classrooms Kingston (BCK) facilitates moving elementary teachers and their students into community spaces where authentic environments serve as a catalyst for teacher-led, student-driven inquiry-based learning. Since its inception more than six years ago, BCK has provided immersive weeklong educational experiences to more than 1400 students and teachers in the Kingston area. Our success is a result of the collaborative efforts of local heritage professionals, volunteers, and our educational partners.

COVID-19 has challenged BCK to find new ways to bring heritage collections and expertise to enrich the lives of youth. In the past year, we have made our program accessible to students and teachers when they have been unable to leave the classroom. We piloted remote programming through an online delivery model with twelve teachers during the 2020-21 school year.

Our partnership with the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area (CFKA) has allowed us to develop programming to work with two teachers in 2021 to develop remote programming to meet the unique needs of rural teachers. Thanks to this funding, we are able to waive the usual program fee and to bring Kingston's cultural sites to elementary classes who would otherwise be unable to visit these sites in person.

Since this is a pilot, participants will be collaborating together to ensure success. Flexibility and open communication will be of paramount importance due to the challenges presented by COVID-19 and the pressures students, teachers, and sites are facing as they adapt.

By participating in the BCK Rural Remote Program, a class will:

- Receive guided instruction in journaling and sketching via ten videos and a live workshop with the BCK Coordinator (via Teams or Google Meet).
- Develop inquiry skills by working with the Teacher and BCK Coordinator to plan inquiry learning sessions based on the interests and curricular needs of the class & the collections of the cultural site
- Engage in 4-6 synchronous virtual sessions with BCK and guest experts who can help explore the inquiry with the class. Student will also receive asynchronous content such as videos or virtual tours before meeting with guest speakers, such as curators, artists, engineers, or other community experts.
- Have opportunities to participate in asynchronous activities such as journaling objects from digitized collections and exploring sites and collections through virtual tours

BCK was founded on the mission to empower children to be culturally aware lifelong learners and active citizens and to heighten the awareness of cultural resources as critical components of educational and emotional development. The BCK Remote Rural program retains the potential to help students develop skills in literacy and foster attitudes of cultural awareness and community stewardship.

We thank you for your willingness to join us for the BCK Rural Remote Program, to bring the outside in, inspire community partnerships, and spark curiosity in students.



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"The Beyond Classrooms Rural Remote Program was a fantastic approach to inquiry based learning through a variety of platforms. BCK has made this program accessible for students who would not be able to access it otherwise, providing an equitable learning experience where children get to access community members and programs that they might not otherwise!

Darby Flynn, Grade 3-5 Teacher, St James Major CS, ALCDSB

"(Beyond Classrooms) puts the child in the driver's seat and allows them to make many choices regarding their learning. It provides these students with a totally new environment, one that invokes inquiry, sharing and an enthusiasm for things learned." –

Simon Pottery, Grade 5 Teacher, Molly Brant ES, LDSB

SITES:

Site	Grade level	Visit website for more information
PumpHouse Steam Museum	Grades 3 to 8	https://www.kingstonpumphouse.ca/
Miller Museum of Geology	Grades 3 to 8	https://www.queensu.ca/millermuseumofgeology/home
Frontenac County Schools Museum	Grades 3 to 8	http://www.fcsmuseum.com/

"I have participated in the Beyond Classrooms Kingston program four times now and each and every experience has been beyond what I could have imagined. It is an experience my students will never forget. The opportunity to connect with the local community, slow down the learn and allow students to have voice and choice in their learning has made these the BEST and most memorable weeks of teaching in my 28 year career. The learning has been truly meaningful; students made the kinds of connections that allowed for deep, critical thinking in real world scenarios, with understanding that will last a lifetime. This has been Inquiry learning at its finest. I highly recommend participating in this program if given the opportunity to do so. The pivot to a remote model has been seamless, from the teacher perspective, and every support I could have asked for has been made available to me in the most positive and receptive manner. Although it does not allow for the depth of connection to the site (the in person, one week experience is still a preference) the learning that came from this experience for my students is still extremely valuable

– Lisa Phippe, Grade 5-6 Teacher, Truedell ES, LDSB



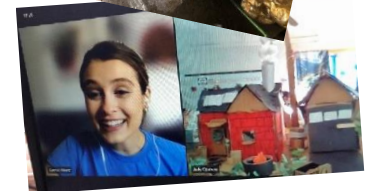
Apply by Sept 27th to engage your students in the Beyond Classrooms Kingston (BCK) Rural Remote Program this fall!

Since 2014, BCK has immersed more than 1400 students and teachers into Kingston's community sites for a week of experiential learning. With funding support from the Community Foundation, BCK is piloting a Rural Remote Program to meet the needs to rural students who are not always able to travel to Kingston's historic sites.

BCK will collaborate with you to design a program, uniquely based on the curricular needs of your class that reflects your long-term teaching goals. Teachers are fully supported in designing an inquiry theme to explore at a cultural site. Students drive their own learning through five live online sessions where they will meet community experts to provide in-depth topic knowledge. Students' questions and curiosities are at the heart of this inquiry-based program.

BCK will help students develop historical thinking and literacy skills through workshops, videos, and live sessions which will teach students to learn to slow down, look closely, and think critically about historical objects while capturing their thinking in a journal. BCK helps students develop skills in literacy, sketching, asking questions, and historical and critical thinking.

The BCK Rural Remote Program deepens student learning and helps foster civic pride, community responsibility, and stewardship.



Apply by Sept 27th for next fall here: <https://forms.gle/paWeKZCBdnqZyRS19>

Visit www.beyondclassrooms.ca for more information or contact coordinator@beyondclassrooms.ca



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Meetings and In-services:

- **Information Session** (*October 5-6 – date to be determined*)
Digital resources will be provided to you to help you prepare for your week. We ask teachers to review the materials prior to their first planning meeting by October 12th. There will be an online orientation session (1.5 hours) to discuss programming ideas at a date/time that works for teachers.
- **Planning Meetings** (*late October - flexible, to be determined*)
Planning meetings will help you prepare for the week. Additional planning will take place through regular correspondence via phone and email as required.
 - *October 12th – 14th*: The BCK Coordinator will meet with you online to review your long-term plan, Big Idea/Theme and inquiry development, and other ideas related to planning your week. We will also discuss ideas for guest speakers and the Coordinator will help schedule these into your week before the next meeting. (1-1.5 hours)
 - *October 20-21st*: You will meet online with the BCK Coordinator and host site staff to finalize your schedule for your week. During this time, we want to hear about the activities or projects you have been working on with the students, and progress with your class's journals. We will confirm activities, journaling times and your expert visitors and activities. (1-1.5 hours)
- **Classroom workshop** (*October 26-27th*)
 - **Journal workshop**: In late October the BCK Coordinator will provide you with a journal workshop (pre-recorded presentation) to be followed up with a live session (via Teams) for sharing and questions.

“I will not be surprised to hear 20 years from now that a few of the students have decided to be a curator or archivist because of this experience.” - Mary Beth Duchene, Grade 3 teacher, Southview PS, LDSB.

Program Feedback and Follow-up:

Once your Rural Remote program is over, we will send you a program evaluation to help us improve our program. We also appreciate examples of student work that we can use in displays, to show other teachers, and promote this amazing program.

We have found that students are inspired from their program week and want to share their learning with others. Some classes have created videos of their week, some have created art exhibits and open houses for their school or the community, some have developed exhibits that are on display in museums, others have created their own inquiry projects. It is clear the learning does not stop when the week finishes, and by sharing all they have learned, students have found a way to continue celebrating their learning.

Big Idea or Inquiry Question Development and Planning Your Week:



Your Remote Program session at a museum or community space begins with a question or a theme. This is what drives your learning and it is connected to your classroom learning expectations, Ontario Ministry expectations, and student and teacher interests. Beyond Classrooms Kingston can provide teachers with assistance in developing the Big Idea or Inquiry Question and their week.



Your week is created and developed by **you**. It is not a field trip week

where activities are chosen from a “menu” or led by the site staff. You, the teacher, drives the week to focus on topics and knowledge that best fit into your curriculum and your students’ needs.



You are supported by the Beyond Classrooms Kingston Coordinator who can assist in planning your week. The Coordinator will participate in each remote session with your class. Your class will also receive a workshop in journal writing and object-based learning to help prepare for your remote program.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who leads the week?

The **teacher** leads the week. The Site becomes an extension of the classroom. The teacher is in the driver's seat and creates curriculum links between the site and student inquiry. As in the classroom, the teacher leads discussion and delivers programming. The BCK Coordinator will assist the teacher in planning and will contact visiting experts to help answer student inquiry questions. Classroom management and classroom atmosphere is created by each individual teacher. Teachers are responsible for class supervision, safety, and discipline. It is important to be flexible as plans change according to weather, student interest and discussions that arise. Each class will have a unique week encompassing a different Big Idea, long-term study and curriculum goals. To make the most of the opportunity, teachers are encouraged to begin planning **well in advance**. Teachers can start by visiting the website of their selected host site to get ideas about how the site might support curriculum links.



School Supplies

School supplies beyond the journal are not included in the BCK program. If teachers require any supplies beyond the journal (such as art supplies), please contact the BCK Coordinator to discuss how they will be covered.

Journals

Each student and teacher will be provided with a journal. The journal will be used to record observations, journal writing, drawing, and keeping a living record of their experience. At school, research and activities should be included in this book. Teachers should follow the schedule to incorporate journaling activities in the classroom each week. BCK has created videos and provided materials to teachers to help support them in their journaling journey. It is important for teachers to provide regular written feedback in the journals as well as to provide ample time for students to share their journals as a group.

Should my class write thank you notes to experts and presenters?

We encourage and hope that all classes will write thank you notes to our funding sponsors (CFKA), experts, presenters or others who help to make their week a success. These letters are greatly appreciated and can be given to the BCK Coordinator, mailed directly, or given to the presenter at the time of presentation.



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Questions or more information?

Please do not hesitate to contact Beyond Classrooms Kingston at coordinator@beyondclassrooms.ca if you require more information or have any questions.

We look forward to you joining us as a Beyond Classrooms Kingston teacher!

Learn more about Beyond Classrooms Kingston: www.beyondclassrooms.ca

To learn more about the Open Minds philosophy on which Beyond Classrooms Kingston is based:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2CIZ05RqjY

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQQafSzbafl

<http://www.chevron.ca/community/openminds.asp>



Community Foundation
for Kingston & Area

