



Rundle Studio: Alberta's first and only virtual school for students with learning disabilities

Online learning offers unique benefits for children with learning disabilities and/or ADHD

For immediate release:

August 10, 2021 - (Calgary, AB) - Rundle College Society, a top Fraser Institute-ranked school, is launching [Rundle Studio](#) this September, a specialized full-time virtual school available to students with learning disabilities across Alberta. Rundle Studio is built on the foundational successful principles of Rundle Academy, a leader in meeting the unique needs of students with learning disabilities.

"About 15% of all students in Alberta have a diagnosed learning disability, so that is one to two students in every classroom, and many are not reaching their full potential," says John Wolf, Principal of Rundle Studio. "During the pandemic, we saw that 25% of our students with learning disabilities did better in an online learning environment, providing further evidence that a virtual learning opportunity was needed and wanted."

Wolf says online school can provide unique benefits for students with learning disabilities, including:

- Universal Design for Learning - providing accommodations for a wide range of learning needs
- Flexibility - attend classes anywhere in Alberta as long as there's access to computer and wifi
- Accessibility - online course materials accessible 24 hours a day
- Self-paced learning - no need to sit for long periods, lessons can be paused when needed, students can progress faster
- Interaction - online environment can be less intimidating, increasing student participation
- Safe, caring, and personalized learning environment

These findings are in line with previous research published in the [Journal of Interactive Online Learning](#) which involved 119 parents of children with learning disabilities. When interviewed, 67% of their comments were positive about their child's online learning experience.

The virtual school is open to students in grades 7 and 8 with a maximum capacity of 28 for this opening year. In order to attend, students do not need a certain academic average, but they must have a diagnosed learning disability and/or ADHD.

“At [Rundle Academy](#), we have over 27 years of experience and a proven track record where more than 95% of students attend the post-secondary program of their choice,” says Wolf. “With proper accommodations and excellent teaching, we bridge the gap between their current academic achievement and their intellectual potential. The education at Rundle Studio will be no different.”

Oliver Hope is entering Grade 8 at Rundle Studio in September. He has dysgraphia (difficulty producing written language) and a low-processing speed. In a traditional school environment, he was often distracted by the noise of the classroom and struggled with learning new material fast enough to keep up.

“While learning online, Oliver started to excel at some things because there were fewer distractions at home. He also started asking the teacher more questions, which is something he wouldn’t do in the classroom,” says Delona Hope, Oliver’s mom. “He’s excited to go to a school where having a learning disability is normal; where everyone is just like him.”

Rundle Studio will use a unique program delivery system to maintain important social and personal connections while online. The Studio will provide daily teacher advisor (TA) time, check-ins, virtual recesses, community building teams, and [esports](#), while in-person opportunities with the greater Rundle community will include optional monthly meet-ups, field trips, and the annual Friday Night Lights football and tailgate gathering.

There are \$15,000 worth of first-year tuition bursaries available, made possible by Rundle Academy’s [generous donors](#). Rundle Studio has limited spots still available for the 2021-22 school year.

About Rundle Studio:

[Rundle Studio](#) is a school belonging to [Rundle College Society](#), a top-ranked, independent, co-educational, day school in Calgary. Rundle Studio is an independent Alberta Education-approved school. Rundle College Society is registered with the Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta ([AISCA](#)) and the Canadians Accredited Independent Schools ([CAIS](#)).

Media Contacts:

Michelle Schurman
Public Relations for Rundle Studio
schurman.michelle@gmail.com
403-463-9607

Dana Heise
Director of Communications
Rundle College Society
heise@rundle.ab.ca
403-291-3866