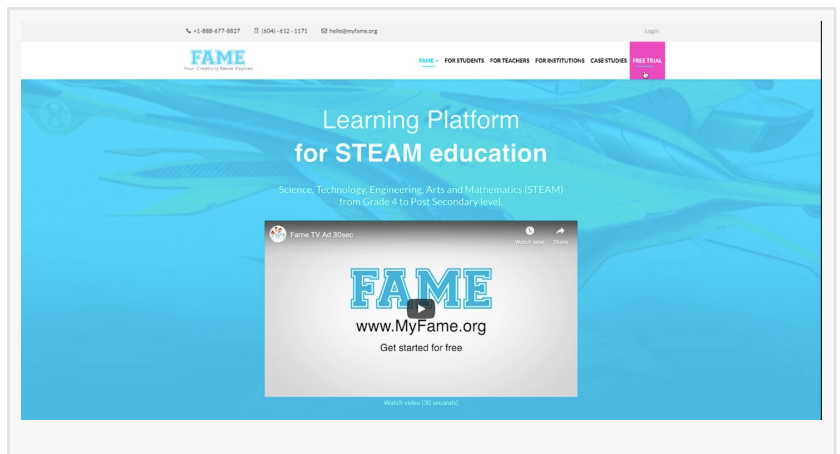


# Online Animation School Offers Free Help to Schools Scrambling to Get Online Amid COVID-19

*"There's so many schools that need to go online now and have no clue how to do it..."*

BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, March 23, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Vancouver Animation School](https://www.vancouveranimation.com/)'s head office is located in a Big Bend industrial park, but its instructors and students live all over the world, teaching and learning on the school's digital platform, designed in-house to simulate the interactivity of a film studio.



In 2016, the school launched FAME, an online platform loaded with arts and technology courses created by subject-matter experts for students in grades 4 to 12 and higher.

“

We all need to contribute to the COVID situation and this is our way of helping other schools in need.”

*Mario Pochat*

This week, the school announced it is extending its free trial for schools from 14 to 90 days – or longer if in-person instruction continues to be suspended.

"We're all on the same boat here," VANAS founder Mario Pochat told the NOW. "There's so many schools that need to go online now and have no clue how to do it, so our contribution, because we're experts in the online

education industry, is FAME. There's a video that explains step by step how a school can transition to online education; use the platform for those 90 days. If (the pandemic) keeps on expanding, we'll keep on expanding everything for the wellbeing of K12 schools."

Besides the arts and tech courses already on the platform, schools can also create and upload their own courses, according to Pochat.

"Let's say they do biology," he said. "We don't do biology ourselves, but they can do that themselves in FAME, and then they have a decision to make: would they like to share that biology course with the world or just keep it private for their students."

There is no video chat on the platform to avoid scheduling mayhem. Instead, students and teachers interact at their own time, similar as they would on Facebook or Instagram, minus the video component.

"There's chat boxes, there's assignments, there's collaboration, but there's no scheduled classes, this allows FAME to be adapted to every school calendar and activities," Pochat said.

FAME is already being used in B.C. by EBUS Academy, a public distance learning school out of Vanderhoof and the Richmond Centre for Disability, according to case studies on the FAME website.

Since Saturday, when Pochat announced VANAS's free offer to help schools transition online with FAME, he said 66 schools from around the world have signed up.

Most are in the U.S. but five are Canadian.

Once things are back to normal at the brick and mortar schools, Pochat said they can either cancel their accounts or pay to keep using them.

"It's up to them. This is not a drill to make them customers. This is different, we all need to contribute to the COVID situation and this is our way of helping others" he said.

For more information about FAME, visit [FAME4schools](#).

Read more from Cornelia Naylor at the [Burnaby NOW](#)

FAME is a complete learning platform that brings innovative STEAM programs to school networks.

Unlike other empty or one-sided platforms. FAME integrates with the school mandate, curricula and teacher's workflow.

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Vancouver Animation School founder Mario Pochat demonstrates FAME, software developed by his online school to connect students and instructors from around the world. Photo by Cornelia Naylor

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This press release can be viewed online at: <http://www.einpresswire.com>

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