

Chinook's Edge believes the best place for students who can go to school is in-person learning. The best place for students who can't go to school is remote learning.

Schools were pleased to welcome students back to school this fall. But for some families, it was clear that COVID-19 created challenges for certain students to return to in-person learning for various reasons and for various lengths of time. To continue serving these students with the quality learning families have come to expect of Chinook's Edge, a remote learning component was developed and launched through the efforts of the Central Office team and school administrators across the division.

A full court press was required to have the plan in place for the start of the year, but remote learning in Chinook's Edge quickly took shape to include 4.5 teachers and 4 educational assistants who are leading the learning for just under 400 students. The team is housed at the former admin offices at École Innisfail Middle School, which had conveniently become available at just the right time through a small office renovation. The space has a large common area, five breakout rooms with large monitors and white boards for teaching and learning, under the direction of Division Principal Rod MacLean.

"Remote learning is not meant to be a permanent program, but it is definitely filling an important learning need for a number of students," said Superintendent Kurt Sacher. "Our goal is to support these students until they can go back into their home school.

"In the meantime, our remote learning strategy is a real success story. Some of our teachers are certified Google Classroom experts, and three of our teachers have worked within Chinook's Edge schools. We needed a strong team, with everyone bringing something different to make this all work. What they share is their experience, their caring nature, and their highly energetic approach."



Chinook's Edge Remote Learning Team

"I'm very proud of our new team. They make a really important difference for our school division," said Superintendent Kurt Sacher.

Remote learning represents maximized collaboration, as the team works in one room to deliver learning for Kindergarten to Grade 8. The division's career high schools are supporting Grade 9-12 students.

"This is a talented group of people," said Rod MacLean. "We have a lot of kids per teacher, involving every grade from K-8 and students with varying needs. They collaborate, brainstorm and resolve many details together each day. They have approached this new challenge with a positive attitude that continually impresses me. We all value this program, but everyone here recognizes that the best place for our students is back in school whenever possible."



Trial by fire - Maddie Cooper (at right, with EA Kiessa Kranenborg at her side), is a brand new teacher who is beginning her career not only in the midst of a pandemic, but in the new role of remote learning teacher with several students in her care!



Together we can do virtually anything - Michelle Baragar (Learning Services Coordinator, Educational Technology) created Remote Learning Team t-shirts for the group, in the first few weeks when they were housed in Division Office.

The team has appreciated the shared supplies, equipment and support from the team at Innisfail Middle School, and the great cooperation from every direction across the division.

"Every request has been answered with a smile. COVID-19 has been a lot of work for everyone in our school division and on top of it we created a new school! Everyone helped with that," said Rod MacLean.