

## Parent Update

November 26, 2021

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Hello everyone,

I wanted to make you aware of a few items that have come up since my last letter on November 10th.

Alberta Education has recently made a decision to reduce the weighting of diploma exams for the 2021-22 school year from 30% to 10%. As a result of this decision, we have decided to weight all of our final assessments in Chinook's Edge School Division for grades 9-12 at a maximum of 10% as well. This is a temporary measure for the 2021-22 school year, and we are making this decision for the following reasons:

- Students and staff are continuing to experience disruption to learning based on absenteeism due to the pandemic.
- Staff are attempting to close learning gaps created over the past eighteen months, as well as to cover current course content.
- Alberta Education has identified 10% weighting for diploma exams, and their rationale, in our opinion, would apply to all other high school courses.
- The focus of teaching and learning under our current circumstances must be placed on the curricular content and preparing students for the next level of learning, not a singular final assessment.

With the recent announcement from Alberta Health Services (AHS) that COVID-19 vaccinations are now available for 5-11 year olds, we wanted to let our parents know that schools have not been asked to host these additional clinics. AHS has asked that we share this [letter](#) from Deena Hinshaw, the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Finally, there have been a number of questions from our schools with regards to field trips to locations that require proof of vaccination.

- At this point the Chinook's Edge Board of Trustees will only support field trips within the Province of Alberta, and we do not anticipate a change in this for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Field trips (that are part of courses or classes) within Alberta can move forward within the school day, only if proof of vaccination or COVID testing is **not** required.
- Extra-curricular/optional trips may have 'proof of vaccination' or COVID testing as one of the criteria. In these cases, students can choose to attend or not attend for a variety of reasons beyond whether or not they are fully vaccinated.

I hope that you find this information both timely and helpful. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support as parents.

Yours truly,

Kurt Sacher  
Superintendent, Chinook's Edge School Division