

Parent Update

May 9, 2022



Hello everyone,

I would like to share a quick update now that restrictions have been lifted and we have been better able to return to our passion for creating and supporting high quality learning environments. We are very excited to be back together face to face in schools across Chinook's Edge School Division. Please keep in mind that while restrictions have been lifted, the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) is still in effect.

For the past two months we have really been able to refocus and reconnect with our students, parents, and staff. In Chinook's Edge, we take tremendous pride in being a school division where students truly come first. I want you to know that our staff believe strongly in this motto and they make all of their decisions with that key priority in mind.

In just the past week alone I have witnessed our:

- Teachers Matter Committee meeting with division office leaders and trustees to have their questions answered and to discuss our direction
- K-3 teacher groups meeting to plan for new curriculum implementation
- Librarians coming together to share best practices that support our students
- School based administrators gathering with division office leaders to thoughtfully plan for 2022-23
- Schools participating in mental health awareness and Education Week activities

Regardless of which group of staff I interact with or observe, I see them learning as professionals, and actively reaching out and connecting with your child because they want nothing more than to see them be successful. In our rural school division with over 40 small schools we have a special opportunity to connect with our students, support their social emotional well-being, and help them learn. We are incredibly proud of the personalized learning our small schools are able to provide for your child.

Moving past the challenges of this pandemic we have been able to revitalize our focus on our three most compelling goals as a school division. The short version for you as a parent is that we are deeply committed to:

- Promoting academic excellence in all of the programming we provide
- Supporting the social emotional well-being of our students and staff
- Making important career connections that set students up for success upon graduation.

To learn more about our three goals please [click on this link](#).

Your involvement as a parent is very important to us. If you are wanting to have your voice heard as we move forward, please don't hesitate to get involved with the school council in your community or to take a moment to respond to the questions we make available on our website

and through your school newsletter. You can find excerpts of what we've already heard [at this link](#).

In March of 2022 we also held a special gathering of our Parents Matter representatives along with key school council leaders and our entire Board of Trustees. We are hoping this will become an annual tradition honouring your perspective and insight as parents as we plan for the future. As an aside, if you are interested in becoming a representative for Parents Matter please watch for more details in the fall.

As we approach the close of the 2021-22 school year and move into 2022-23, we look forward to enhancing our communication with you as parents and valuing your perspective as we plan for the future. Thank you once again for supporting our staff and our schools. It truly makes a world of difference for all of us.

Yours truly,

Kurt Sacher
Superintendent of Schools