

## Feeling right at home at the newest school in Chinook's Edge

When May City Colony School first opened at the start of this school year, it felt like a homecoming for teacher Lisa McCaw. The new school is only five km from the one-room schoolhouse where her grandma started her own teaching career in the 1940s.

“It’s a perfect way to honour the tradition of the one-room schoolhouse,” said Lisa, who works with 17 students from Kindergarten to Grade 9. “The class has four groups of students of varying ages. We know each of them, and their skills and abilities, so well that we’re able to provide the best programming approach for each. May City kids love to read and they are all unbelievably avid readers, so ensuring the library was stocked was a huge priority. They are also very creative and artistic.”

Lisa is supported in the classroom by EA Catharina Enns, who transferred from Horizon School and was at Neudorf Colony School prior to that. The three other colony schools in Chinook’s Edge provide ongoing support, including sharing resources for the library.



**Brand new!** Families at May City Colony are involved in an active steel siding mill - and in the activities of their new school. Plans are in the works for planting grass and building a playground outside the new school, and students have classes with the German teacher before and after school each day.



**Growing together** - May City Colony School teacher Lisa McCaw graduated from Cremona School, where she first learned the value that comes from being part of a K-12 school community.

“I also feel incredible support from the students and families at May City. The women come in to clean the school and they make sure we are all very well fed at lunchtime! Everyone has daily and weekly chores, and they all pitch in.”

All four Colony Schools (May City, Neudorf, Pine Hill and Rainbow Colony) are supervised by long-serving Chinook’s Edge administrator, Daryl Brown, who visits each school every month. Lisa began her teaching career at a Colony School in 2002, and has been with Chinook’s Edge since 2008 as a teacher at Westglen Middle School and Delburne Centralized School. She was excited with the teaching opportunity after May City Colony opened in August 2021, and the school started soon after.

“This community is so supportive of the school. Literacy, Math and good behaviour is important to them and they have been very welcoming to me,” said Lisa. “There is also a great rapport among the staff at our Colony Schools and everyone is incredibly helpful – they are always just a phone call away. We work together every Collaborative Day to ensure we’re bringing our best to these students. They’re really great kids and I’m so happy to be with them!”

**On another note...** When Superintendent Kurt Sacher received a request from Marshall, a Kindergarten student at Poplar Ridge School, requesting permission to have a pet pig in his classroom, it prompted Kurt to do what he loves the most: visit the school and chat with the student in person! Watch their conversation [at this link](#), thanks to Michelle Baragar (Coordinator of Educational Technology).