

The Board of Trustees for Chinook's Edge School Division are [pleased to have participated](#) in the Penhold Waskasoo Middle School [grand opening](#) on September 12. The Board [welcomed Devin Dreesen](#) Minister of Transportation and Innisfail-Sylvan Lake MLA, Burton Bailey MP for Red Deer, Penhold Mayor Mike Yargeau and a number of Penhold councillors, Dana Dapalme councillor for Red Deer County, and a [number of community members](#). Trustees have been watching with interest over the past three years as the design and then construction of the facility developed. PWMS welcomed more than 400 students in Grades 4 to 8 on September 2, 2025.

Chinook's Edge welcomed [51 new teachers to the division this year](#). [This number](#) includes [teachers who are new to the profession](#), or who are new to Chinook's Edge, or joined the division part way through the last school year. Trustees are supportive of the [wide range of support](#) that gets [new teachers](#) off to a [strong start](#) including the mentorship program and new teacher orientation.

On September 19, approximately [1,100 staff members gathered together](#) for a common professional learning day, the largest in the division in about 10 years. The Board is supportive of efforts of staff to increase skills and knowledge in supporting student success.

Trustees were pleased to see an increasing number of students involved in [work experience placements](#) over the summer, compared to the past two years. In total the numbers have increased from 206 students in 2023 to 307 in 2025. Leaders say schools have done a great job of helping students become aware of the opportunities they have to build career related skills and confidence.

Also increasing is the number of students taking advantage of the [Jumpstart program](#). [The program](#) provides a foundation in the Google operating environment and is geared to high school students. Students who earn six credits in the program receive a Chromebook. This year 168 students received a Chromebook compared to 142 last year. Also this year students earned 1,275 credits toward their high school diploma.

Trustees appreciated the positive launch of the 2025-26 school year, with excitement for learning opportunities ahead. Check out this [first-day-of school fun video](#).