



Hello everyone,

We are all very excited to welcome your children back to school. We are truly hoping and planning for a year that is much closer to normal than anything we have experienced in the past few years. We are energized about building relationships with your children so that we can move learning forward in an engaging and supportive way.

We are also looking forward to connecting with more parents as you volunteer in your child's classroom, support school events, and take part in school activities that are of interest to you and your family.

We have three goals in our Chinook's Edge Education Plan which you can [find here](#). We are deeply committed to each of them (Academic Excellence, Social Emotional Well-being, and Career Connections).

- To move Academic Excellence forward we are enhancing our numeracy and literacy (both reading and writing) assessments so that they cover grades 1 through 10 on an annual basis. These assessments really help our teachers know where our students are at and what they can do to respond as professionals.
- In the area of Social Emotional Well-being we are piloting a new locally developed SEW curriculum (Social Emotional Well-being) for grade 10-12 students (grade 5-9 is under construction) in our school division that is designed to support the positive development of social emotional learning and mental health. The SEW course has a focus in five areas: self awareness, self management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making. Some key outcomes that this curriculum will cover is learning how to manage anxiety, understanding positive and negative stress, developing healthy relationships and managing social media in a healthy and respectful manner. We are also providing SEW certification training to all of our teachers, educational assistants and school based administrators, which provides them with the skills they need to support students with their social emotional well-being.
- Within our Career Connections goal, while we have foundational strategies in place to set students up for success from K-8, we have a focused approach starting in grade 9 that is designed to help students make sound career plans by the end of grade 12. This process includes reflective time with My Blueprint, career exploration with dual credit and work integrated learning, visits to post secondary institutions, and focused time with career practitioners who provide direct support with their individual skill development and career pathway planning.

To enhance the likelihood we will achieve our three goals, we are also learning a great deal about the importance of high levels of student attendance. As a division we are looking closely at what we can do to make it even more likely that students want to be in school. You can help us at home by encouraging your child to attend regularly and by communicating with your child's teacher when there might be a concern. While there are more details on the [website](#), we do

know from the research that if a student misses on average two days or more of school each month, over time they can be at risk of significantly lower academic achievement. We truly appreciate any help you can provide your child as parents.

I also want you to know that there are no COVID-19 restrictions in place from Alberta Education for the start of the 2022-23 school year. We simply ask that all students and staff continue to maintain healthy personal hygiene (handwashing, etc.) and that they stay home when they are sick. We are not anticipating any COVID-19 related mandates from our government for this coming school year, however, we do want to ensure that you are aware of the [isolation recommendations](#) should your child become ill with COVID-19.

On a final note, as we move forward with the new K-3 curriculum outcomes in Math and English Language Arts, our teachers are receiving high quality collaborative support. As a school division, we appreciate the changes Alberta Education has made to improve the process and the curriculum itself.

Thank you for supporting our staff and our schools. As parents you play a critically important role as we all work together to help our students develop as people and as learners.

Yours truly,

Kurt Sacher
Superintendent of Schools