

PENHOLD CROSSING SECONDARY SCHOOL



Box 40, 1B Waskasoo Avenue
Penhold Alberta T0M 1R0
Phone: 403-886-8604



Principal: Scott MacDonald

www.penholdcrossing.ca

Vice Principal: Deen Lockhat

From the Principal's Desk:

As the first month of a new school year comes to a close at Penhold Crossing Secondary School, Mr. Lockhat and I have been very pleased to be meeting so many students and parents. We appreciate the friendly waves and comments we have been getting as we greet your children each morning and say goodbye to them each afternoon.

Maximizing Academic Achievement is, naturally, one of the key goals that we are working on together as a school community. This is a multi-year goal designed to increase the opportunities that Penhold students have available to them as they complete high school and head out into the worlds of post-secondary education and work. This year a focus will be on immediately increasing student diploma exam results and effectively utilizing FLEX time to increase overall academic achievement.

With the intent of increasing diploma exam results, we are asking our teachers to examine both their teaching and assessment practices to ensure that they align with the rigors and design of the provincial exams for grade 12. As a team, we are also discussing the scope and sequence of academic courses from grades 9 to 11 to ensure that students are being given the opportunity to build the knowledge and skills required to be successful grade 12 students. Mr. Lockhat and I do not believe in asking our teachers to do things that we, ourselves, are not willing to do. As such, we are teaching several core academic courses between us -- including four different diploma courses.

FLEX time has seen some significant changes in how it is being utilized this year. Students have the ability to sign up online for the teachers they wish to see each day. Teachers also have the ability to block off time for classes and/or small groups of students who may require extra instruction. While there is a fair amount of choice for students during this time, their academic progress is tracked and those that are falling behind in their courses have, and will continue to have, their flexibility of choice reduced and will be directed towards the teachers best-equipped to help them catch up.

These are just two of the many things that the school and staff are doing to try and ensure that every student is successful. Our goals and strategies are designed to create an environment where academic success is at the forefront of why we do what we do. By ensuring that we have a safe and caring school, strong relationships between students and staff, high expectations of behavior, and purposeful strategies for allowing students to be their best, we will strive to provide an education and learning environment on par with any on offer in Alberta.

We acknowledge that getting to that goal will be hard work but we are willing to do it. It is our hope that the parents and community of Penhold will join us in helping to make Penhold Crossing Secondary School and the entire community of Penhold schools an example of what other school communities hope to achieve.

Scott MacDonald -- Principal
Deen Lockhat -- Vice Principal

Please note: Despite the impending legalization of cannabis, Penhold Crossing Secondary School will not be changing any policies as they apply to being in possession of or under the influence of cannabis while on school property. Being in possession of, or under the influence any drug or alcohol will be treated as a serious violation of school rules and will incur significant consequences. This also applies to being in possession of, or actively using tobacco products and/or vaporisers on school property. Please contact us at the school if you have any specific questions or concerns.



Engaging every student in our Safe and Caring Schools

A Message from the Superintendent

We know that meaningful relationships and a foundation of trust move our students toward success, and that is precisely what you can expect for your child in Chinook's Edge. We are committed to ensuring each of our students and staff feel they are safe, cared for and that they belong. This is at the core of our quality learning environment, and it leads to healthy development for our students and a sense of wellness for everyone in our school communities.

Chinook's Edge takes enormous pride in the safe and caring culture in each of our schools. We work together toward this priority by sharing ideas, blending resources and leading projects that ensure we are a school division filled with safe, healthy and happy students and staff.

Kurt Sacher
Superintendent of Schools

Please note:

With the legalization of cannabis expected to take effect on October 17, we want to be clear that cannabis is considered to be a restricted substance in our school division. Cannabis use, like alcohol use, is prohibited in all Chinook's Edge schools, on school property or during school related activities. Details are provided on [Admin Procedure 3-11](#) 'Student Substance Abuse', and it is important to note that infractions will result in serious consequences. October 17th will be no different than October 16th in terms of what is allowed in our schools. Thank you.

Dear Parents:

Changes and Updates to the School Immunization Program

Alberta Health has made changes to the school immunization program that will take effect in the 2018/19 school year.

What is changing?

HBV and HPV vaccines

Previously in Alberta, Grade 5 students were offered three doses of vaccine for Hepatitis B (HBV) and three doses of vaccine for Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Alberta is moving from a three-dose vaccine schedule in Grade 5 to a two-dose vaccine schedule in Grade 6 for both HBV and HPV vaccines. Alberta Health has made this change to align with the evidence, which shows that administering two doses at least six months apart will provide children with good protection against Hepatitis B and Human Papillomavirus diseases.

The Grade 9 school immunization program including the diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (dTap) and Meningococcal (MenC-ACYW) vaccines will continue to be offered.

The HBV vaccine given in a two-dose series is approved for children 11 years up to and including 15 years of age. In Alberta, the majority of students are 11 years of age in Grade 6, therefore HBV immunizations will be offered in Grade 6 rather than Grade 5.

The HPV vaccine given in a two-dose series is approved for children 9 years up to and including 14 years of age who have a well-functioning immune system. HPV immunizations will be offered at the same time as the HBV vaccine, in Grade 6 rather than Grade 5. A three-dose series will continue to be offered to students with compromised immune systems.

Catch-up immunization program

In the 2018/19 school year, public health nurses will be reviewing the immunization records of all Alberta students from Grades 1 to 9 to assess immunization status. You will be contacted if your child is missing immunization information.

With your consent, your child can be offered the immunizations they are missing at school. You will continue to have the final decision on immunizing your child.

As per current practice, if a highly contagious vaccine-preventable disease, such as measles, occurs at school, children with missing immunization information or declined immunization may be excluded from school to protect their health. In some cases, children may need to stay home for several weeks.

Below is an outline of the changes that will occur to the school immunization program in the 2018/19 and 2019/20 school years.

2018/2019 School Year

Students in Grade 5 will not be immunized with the HPV and HBV vaccines, as they will be offered the vaccines the following year in Grade 6.

With your consent, children in Grades 1 to 9 who are missing immunizations will be offered immunizations at school.

2019/2020 School Year

Students in Grade 6 will be offered immunization with the HPV and HBV vaccines as a two-dose series.

With your consent, children in Grades 1 to 9 who are missing immunizations will be offered immunizations at school.

Alberta Health Services, Public Health will work closely with the schools and school authorities to ensure that immunization does not interfere with students taking the Provincial Achievement Tests.

More information on immunization and Alberta's routine immunization schedule and changes to the school immunization program is available at www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/immunization.html

If you have any questions about immunizing your child, please contact your school's public health nurse, call 811 or visit <http://immunizealberta.ca/>.

Sincerely,

Alberta Health Services

The logo for the province of Alberta, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized, cursive font. The letter "a" at the end is replaced by a solid blue square.



Senior Boys Volleyball Team take Gold in Bentley Tournament



Cross Country Runners off to the Dawe Run

Cross Country Runners off to the Dawe Run



Congratulations to Sienna in Grade 8 placed third in the Dawe Run !

Congratulations to Sienna in Grade 8 placed third in the Dawe Run !

Penhold Crossing October Events



October 3 – PE 20/30 Hiking to Nordegg

October 5 – No School

October 8 – Thanksgiving (No School)

October 12 – Awards Night (7:00 pm – 8:00 pm)

October 26 – No School

October 30 – Haunted House (4:00 pm – 5:00 pm)

All are welcome

Jr. High Halloween Dance (5:00pm – 7:00)

Sr. High Halloween Dance (7:00pm-10:00pm)

October 31 – Halloween Dress Up Contest

November 1 –Picture Retakes