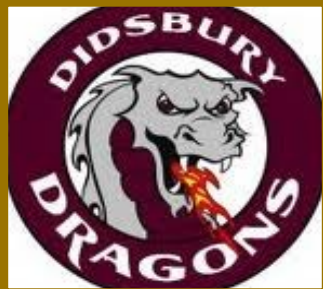


September  
2023



CHINOOK'S EDGE SCHOOL DIVISION NO 73

# Didsbury High School

## From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back to all the students, staff and parents at Didsbury High School. We hope that everyone had a fun and relaxing summer and are ready to return for another great year at DHS. **Classes will begin Tuesday, September 5 at 8:40 AM.**

With the start of a new year we have some new additions to our staff. Ms. Cassandra Quick is coming to us from River Valley School and will be teaching Industrial Education and Sr. High Math this year. Ms. Pam Israelson will also be joining the DHS team as an educational assistant.

New to DHS this year will be the introduction of Guided Learning Time (GLT) that will be offered two times a week to all students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These blocks of time are available so that students can select the teachers that they might require some extra time with or that teachers can use to select students that they feel require some extra support. These blocks will be selected through Power School and attendance will be taken and reported on -- they are not "spares". The availability of this time should allow students more opportunities for support in courses they find challenging and help reduce the amount of after school time needed to complete homework and assignments. Students who have difficulty in effectively utilizing GLT blocks may instead be assigned to a fixed Homework Room where they will have the structured opportunity to catch up on missed work or study.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays will see the day start with 15 minutes of Connection Time (CT) in which students can touch base with their teachers to ask questions about work or assignments they may have missed or are struggling to complete. This time is also available for teachers to meet with groups of students or to connect with colleagues and parents regarding a student's progress.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday bell schedules may be found on our school [website](#).

On our first day back to school we will be spending the morning with our **Grade 9's** to welcome them to high school, show them how to access their timetables on Power School and walk them through the new freedoms and heightened responsibilities of high school. Class lists will be on display in the student gathering area outside the library and staff will be on hand to direct students to their first class of the day where they will receive all the information they need to successfully navigate the rest of the day and their entrance into high school.

For new Grade 9 students, our Grade 9 Skills course is primarily directed at enhancing the literacy, numeracy, writing and organizational skills required for success in high school. As the course develops it will also include Health, financial literacy, career planning, and even some general life hacks.

Enjoy your long weekend and we look forward to seeing all the faces, both old and new, on Tuesday morning. We will be having a Welcome Back BBQ lunch for all students on Friday September 8th.

Welcome back!

The Didsbury High Admin Team



### Inside this issue:

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**DIDSBURY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**1515-15 AVENUE**  
**DIDSBURY, AB T0M 0W0**  
**P 403-335-3356 F 403-335-8036**

*Principal—Scott MacDonald*

*Vice Principal—Tyler Jesse*

[www.didsburyhigh.ca](http://www.didsburyhigh.ca)

### Welcome to another year of music at Didsbury High School!

#### 2024 SYMPHONIC WINDS TOUR

The DHS Symphonic Winds will be participating in MusicFest - The Nationals from May 14th to May 18th 2024!

This exciting opportunity is a result of the Symphonic Winds' outstanding performance during last year's tour to the Maritimes. Cost for this year's tour will be approximately \$2100.00, and will include transportation, accommodation, all attractions and breakfast and supper daily. The only additional costs would be for lunches and any individual shopping students may wish to do.

While we are still working on the itinerary, highlights of this trip will include:

- Accommodations at University of Toronto residences;
- Tour to Niagara Falls;
- MusicFest performance and workshops;
- Royal Ontario Museum;
- CN Tower;
- Ripley's Aquarium;
- Broadway show at the Mirvish Theatre;
- Toronto Blue Jays game; and
- MusicFest Jazz Dinner and concerts

The DHS Band Society will be providing fundraising opportunities throughout the year in order to help as many students as possible take advantage of this outstanding travel opportunity.

All students who wish to participate in this trip should have already submitted a \$300.00 deposit in order to secure their spot, BUT IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP. Bring in your \$300 deposit as soon as possible to Mr. Wassmer. Cheques can be made payable to the DHS Band Society, and e-transfer is available. If students wish to use money that is in their fundraising account, please indicate so in a note.

The following payment schedule will be used for the balance of the trip:

- Friday, September 29th - \$450
- Friday, December 1st - \$450
- Friday, February 16th - \$450
- Friday, April 26th - \$450

If you are interested in joining us as a chaperone, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can add your name to our tour list. Please note that all costs and payment dates are the same for chaperones.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me!

Kirk Wassmer [kwassmer@cesd73.ca](mailto:kwassmer@cesd73.ca)



## Important PowerSchool Information for Students

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Effective August 29th, students will be using their CESD login user name and password to get into PowerSchool. They will no longer be using two separate logins. All students will be getting there CESD login information during their first block class on Tuesday September 5th.

## School Photo Day

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### School Photos

**Thursday September 7, 2023**

(Retakes will be October 4th, 2023)

## Welcome Back BBQ

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**The “Welcome Back to School” BBQ will be at Lunch Friday September 8th**



## Yearbook News

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### 2022/2023 DHS Yearbook

The 2022/2023 Edition of the DHS Yearbook will be distributed the first week of September! If you ordered a yearbook, stop by the Library and see Ms. Budd!



## 2023 VOLLEYBALL

**DHS is seeking Boys Volleyball Coaches!  
If you are interested please contact Mr.  
Bates as soon as possible.  
[ibates@cesd73.ca](mailto:ibates@cesd73.ca)**

**Girls Volleyball Tryouts will start  
Wednesday September 6th @ 3:30**



## DHS CROSS COUNTRY

**DHS is looking for students to  
participate in Cross Country.  
Please see  
Ms. Lerbekmo as soon  
as possible**

## DHS GOLF

**Any Grade 10-12 Students  
interested in Golf for 2023, please  
see Mr. Jesse  
as soon as possible**



**There will be an information meeting for all Grads and Parents the first week of October. Date to be announced in September. Stay tuned.**



JOSTEN'S GRAD 2024 RING DAY  
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

## CESD School Re-enrollment Forms

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A reminder to all Parents, the ***School Re-enrollment and Consent Forms*** have been sent to your emails.  
Please complete by September 5, 2023

As per the requirements from Alberta Education, all schools are asked to have Parents/Guardians verify their child(rens) records every year. These verifications are used at the school level to:

- 1) Provide information to you for CRA (Canada Revenue Agency), should you ever have to provide school information for an audit.
- 2) Provide Alberta Education an audit on Students enrollment.
- 3) Provide updated/accurate emergency, medical information and phone numbers for the school.

# Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Fact Sheet for Parents, Students, and Staff

## Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73



- **BYOD** - is quickly becoming the norm for many classrooms across the province and in our school division. Allowing personal devices into our classrooms helps personalize and enhance learning for our students. Students also develop a stronger sense of digital citizenship.
- **Google for Education** - is our common platform for our students and staff. It's easy to use and cost effective. Through the Google platform, we have access to amazing tools anytime, from anywhere. Here are 3 things we'd like all students, parents, and staff to know about Google for Education:
  - Google for Education is an internet based application that provides safe and secure access to applications such as word processing, document sharing and storage, video, audio, presentations, spreadsheets, and email.
  - Chinook's Edge School Division has been using Google for Education for the past 10 years. Like most school divisions in Alberta, we have a legally binding contract with Google to ensure that student and staff information remains safe and secure according to our [Information Security Procedures](#).
  - Student's last names are not used or displayed. For example, Jane Ethel Doe's username will be [jed4321@cesd73.ca](mailto:jed4321@cesd73.ca) and her profile will list her as Jane Unknown.
- **Chromebooks** - are the devices that Chinook's Edge School Division is recommending for our BYOD classrooms. Here are 5 things we'd like all students, parents, and staff to know about Chromebooks:
  - Chromebooks are, on average, approximately one-third of the cost of traditional laptops. They serve as a simple and affordable option for teachers and learners. Chromebooks operate on the Chrome operating system and are designed to be used while connected wirelessly to the Internet.
  - Chromebooks support the majority of web-based applications, and allow students access to thousands of free apps through Google Chrome. Students safely store their data remotely using Google Drive. Students can print at school through Google Print.
  - Although Chromebooks do not allow the downloading of specific games or software, (i.e. Microsoft Office), they offer thousands of viable alternatives in Google Apps for Education.
  - Chromebooks can be purchased through many local retailers - both in stores and online. Common examples of Chromebook manufacturers are Samsung, Dell, and HP. Great sales frequently occur at the end of the summer.
- **Other Laptops and Tablets** - can also be used in our BYOD classrooms as long as they meet the following basic standards:
  - 2G of RAM - Webcam - QWERTY U.S. Keyboard or keyboard function.
  - Compatibility with both 802.11n and 802.11ac wireless networks.
  - Battery life of 5 hours or longer - as charging stations are limited in classrooms.
  - Capability of running Chrome browser.
- **Participation in BYOD** - is optional as we recognize that some students may choose not to bring a device to school. For projects that require the use of technology, school-owned devices will be made available.
- **Security, Maintenance, and Charging** - of personal devices is the student's responsibility.
- **Responsible Use of Technology** - remains a focus in our schools. As such all students and staff are expected to follow the expectations outlined in our [CESD Technology Responsible Use](#) document. Additional classroom procedures for personal devices may also be developed by teachers in BYOD Classrooms.
- **Contact Your Child's Teacher(s)** - to find out how personal devices can be used in his/her current setting.

# ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW



CHINOOK'S EDGE  
SCHOOL DIVISION

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



**ELEMENTARY STUDENTS**  
read well by the end of the third grade.



**MIDDLE SCHOOLERS**  
pass important courses



**HIGH SCHOOLERS**  
stay on track for graduation



**UNIVERSITY/ COLLEGE STUDENTS**  
earn their degree



**WORKERS**  
succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

## Why are students Chronically Absent and how can we help?



CHINOOK'S EDGE  
SCHOOL DIVISION

### Myths

Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused

Sporadic versus consecutive absences aren't a problem

Attendance only matters in the older grades

### Barriers

Chronic Illness

Lack of access to health or dental care

Trauma

Poor Transportation

No safe path to school

### Aversion

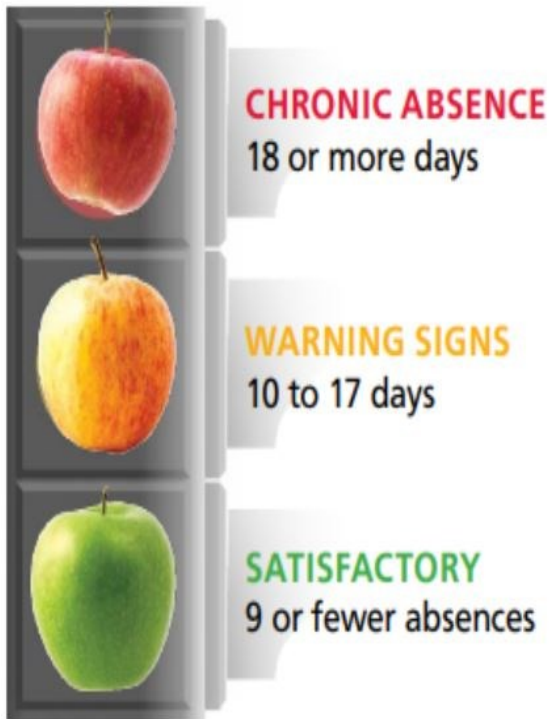
Child struggling academically

Lack of engagement in the instruction

Incompatible school climate

Parents had negative school experience

# When Do Absences Become a Problem?



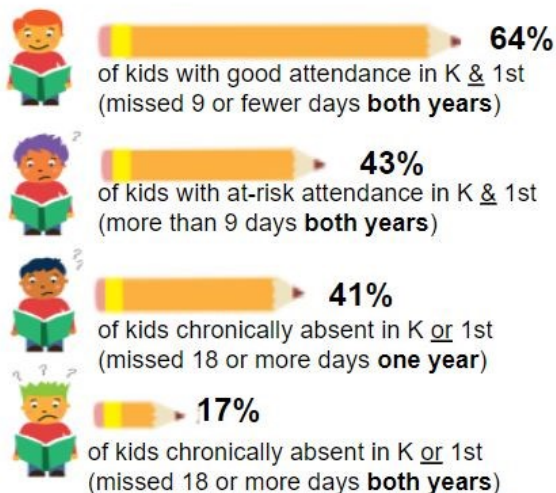
## Help Your Child Stay Healthy and Engaged

- **Establish** routines for bedtime, waking up and showing up for class.
- **Identify a quiet place** for your child to do school work. If you have more than one child, make a schedule.
- **Develop back-up plans** for logging in to the computer if you can't be there. Find a family member, neighbour, or older child who can help. Community based organizations might also be able to help.
- **Avoid extended family trips and non-urgent** medical appointments when school is in session.

## Why It Matters

- Children who don't attend school regularly miss out on fundamental reading and math skills, and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.
- Children who are chronically absent in Kindergarten and Grade 1 are far less likely to read proficiently at the end of Grade 3 and beyond.

### Who Can Read at Grade Level After Grade 3?

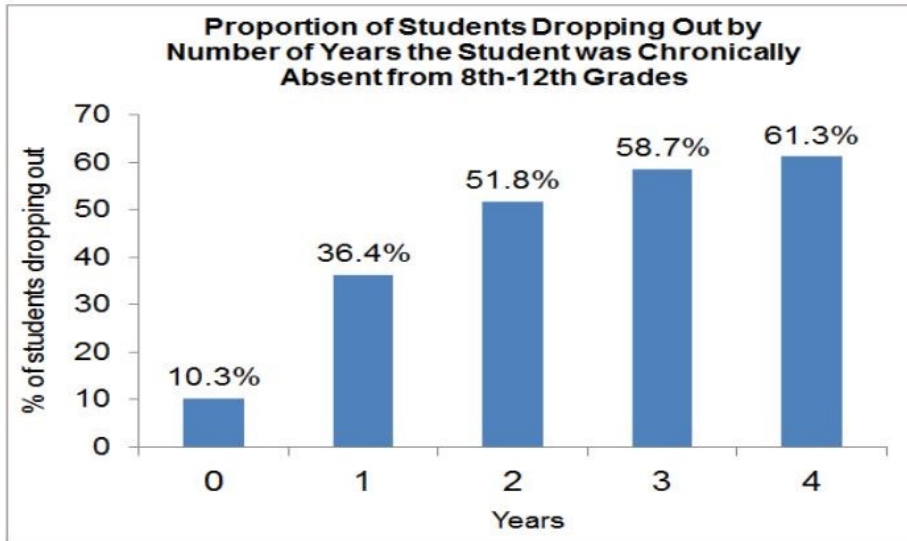


## Make School Attendance a Priority

- **Monitor your child's attendance** and participation, and contact your teacher to address any concerns.
- **Post your child's class schedule** and log in information on the fridge or your child's homework area.
- **Log in to Powerschool** to receive updates about your child's grades (grades 5-12) and/or attendance.
- **Find out if your child feels safe.** If there are problems, contact the school team to find a solution.
- **If your child seems bored or anxious** about school, talk to their teacher, Family School Wellness, or other parents for advice on how to make your child feel safe and excited about learning.
- **Ask for help when you need it.** School staff, community agencies, or other parents are available to help families access supports when needed.
- **Contact your school team** if you need help to support your child and make school a great place to learn and grow.



# The Effects of Chronic Absence on Dropout Rates are Cumulative



With every year of chronic absenteeism (18 days or more of school missed), a higher percentage of students drop-out of school.



**Terry Fox Run  
@ DHS  
Tuesday  
September 19th  
2 pm**

**Didsbury High School** will be participating in this year's Terry Fox School Run for cancer research. We are proud to continue the legacy of one of our country's greatest heroes. We hope you will join us and support this wonderful cause by donating to our Terry Fox School Run fundraising page at: <http://www.terryfox.ca/DidsburyHigh> Thank you! The future of cancer research has never looked brighter!

#terryfoxliveshere #theterryfoxfoundation #terryfoxschoolruns



## Looking Ahead

### October Dates to Remember

School Parent Council Meeting	October 3
Non-Instructional Day—No School	October 6
Thanksgiving Day—No School	October 9
Band AGM Meeting	October 11
Interim Report Cards	October 16
Collaborative Day—No School	October 20
Parent Teacher Interviews	October 26



# Didsbury High School Bell Schedules



## Non GLT Day Bell Schedule (Monday/Wednesday/Friday)

Block	Time
Connection Time (CT)	8:40 - 8:54 am
Warning Bell	8:54 am
Block 1	8:57 - 10:17 am
Break	10:17 - 10:20 am
Block 2	10:20 - 11:40 am
Lunch	11:40 - 12:31 pm
Warning Bell	12:28 pm
Block 3	12:31 - 1:51 pm
Break	1:51 - 1:54 pm
Block 4	1:54 - 3:14 pm
Dismissal	3:14 pm

## GLT Day Bell Schedule (Tuesday/Thursday)

Block	Time
Warning Bell	8:35 am
Block 1	8:40 - 9:53 am
Break / GLT Prep	9:53 - 10:00 am
Guided Learning Time (GLT)	10:00 - 10:50 am
Break	10:50 - 10:53 am
Block 2	10:53 - 12:06 am
Lunch	12:06 - 12:45 pm
Warning Bell	12:42 pm
Block 3	12:45 - 1:58 pm
Break	1:58 - 2:01 PM
Block 4	2:01 - 3:14 pm
Dismissal	3:14 pm



# Chinook's Edge School Division

## 2023-2024 Student Attendance Traditional Calendar

AUGUST 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Aug 30-31 School Opens

SEPTEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sept 1 No Classes  
 Sept 4 Labour Day  
 Sept 5 Students' First Day of School  
 Sept 22 No Classes  
 Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - No Classes

OCTOBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Oct 6 Non Instructional Day  
 Oct 9 Thanksgiving Day  
 Oct 20 No Classes

NOVEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Nov 9-10 Fall Break  
 Nov 11 Remembrance Day  
 Nov 24 No Classes

DECEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Dec 8 Non Instructional Day  
 Dec 26-31 Christmas Break

JANUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Jan 1-5 Christmas Break  
 Jan 31 Semester Break - No Classes

FEBRUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Feb 1 First Day Semester Two  
 Feb 9 No Classes  
 Feb 19 Family Day  
 Feb 19-23 Winter Break  
 Feb 22-23 Teachers' Convention

MARCH 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Mar 8 No Classes  
 Mar 29 Good Friday

APRIL 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Apr 1 Easter Monday  
 Apr 15-19 Spring Break

MAY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May 3 No Classes  
 May 17 No Classes  
 May 20 Victoria Day

JUNE 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						


Jun 7 Non Instructional Day  
 Jun 27 Students' Last Day (noon dismissal)  
 Jun 28 Last Day for Staff

LEGEND	
	Professional Learning Day
	Teachers' Convention
	Non Instructional Day
	Significant Start and End Dates
	Holiday
	Breaks

# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day No Classes	5 First Day of Classes	6	7 School Picture Day	8 Welcome Back Breakfast	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Terry Fox Run 2pm	20	21	22 Focused PD Day No Classes Sr Girls VBall Tournament	23 Sr Girls VBall Tournament
24	25	26	27	28 Jostens Grad 2024 Ring Day Meet the Teacher Night 6:30pm 2022/2023 Student Awards Night 7 pm	29 Orange Shirt Day	30

# October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 School Council Mtg 6 pm	4	5	6 Non-Instructional Day No Classes	7
8	9 	10	11 Band AGM Mtg 7 pm	12	13	14
15	16 Interim Report Cards	17	18	19	20 Professional Learning Day - No Classes	21
22	23	24	25	26 Parent/Teacher Interviews 4:00-7:00pm Appointment Required	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween Activities 