

September
2022



CHINOOK'S EDGE SCHOOL DIVISION NO 73

Didsbury High School

Principal's Message

As one of my first actions as the new Principal of Didsbury High School, I would like to welcome all of our students and staff back to what we hope will be a great and distraction-free school year. While the past few years have been challenging in many respects, DHS has done an exceptional job of maintaining high expectations and standards for our students and our staff. I look forward to working with a talented group of teachers and support staff to help maintain and improve upon the gains DHS has made over the last several years.

Originally from Prince Edward Island, I have been a part of Chinooks Edge School Division since 2002, when I moved to Sundre from Fort McMurray with my wife (a Didsbury girl) and two young boys. My wife and I still live in the Sundre area, surrounded by Labrador Retrievers, three cats (only one of which I like), and the occasional semi-feral 20 year old kid coming home to raid the freezer and do their laundry.

For 14 years, I taught in Cremona, where I was the high school science department for 10 years and Vice-Principal for the last four years. From there, I moved on to Innisfail High School for two years, where I was the Vice-Principal and Acting Principal, before moving on to the Principal's position at Penhold Crossing Secondary School for the past four years. Throughout my career I have taught academic sciences and Diploma courses and will continue to do so in my new role, teaching Physics 20 and 30 this school year.

I am excited to come to Didsbury, a town that still contains family connections and look forward to meeting many of you and, more importantly, your children over the next several weeks and months. As a school administrator, I am committed to the academic success of all our students and ensuring that every DHS student has an experience that maximizes their opportunities for life after high school. As normalcy returns to our schools and our lives I am confident that the 2022-23 school year will be a great one.

Here's hoping that everyone is able to have a fun and a relaxing long weekend.

Scott MacDonald
Principal



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DIDS'BURY HIGH SCHOOL
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P 403-335-3356 F 403-335-8036

Principal—Scott MacDonald

Vice Principal—Curtis Dick

www.didsburyhigh.ca

Division News

... for parents and guardians

September 2022




Believing in every student - A message from the Superintendent

Students, staff and families across Chinook's Edge are coming together with a sense of optimism for the year that awaits us, and I extend a warm welcome on behalf our Board of Education and Central Office Leadership Team.

We are so excited to welcome our students and staff back to school! Our schools share a focus on key [divisional goals](#): Academic Excellence, Social Emotional Well-being and Career Connections. We believe this strong foundation will allow our students to achieve higher levels of success throughout their lifetime. Our schools are filled with enthusiasm as this year gets underway.

Our staff have worked hard to ensure a clear path ahead for our students, including a focused collaboration to support the new K-3 curriculum (more information below). We work to build welcoming school cultures and believe each day is filled with learning opportunities for every student in our care, which is why we are launching our [Attendance Matters](#) initiative.

We are excited to welcome our students and staff back to school and wish everyone a tremendous year ahead!


Superintendent Kurt Sacher

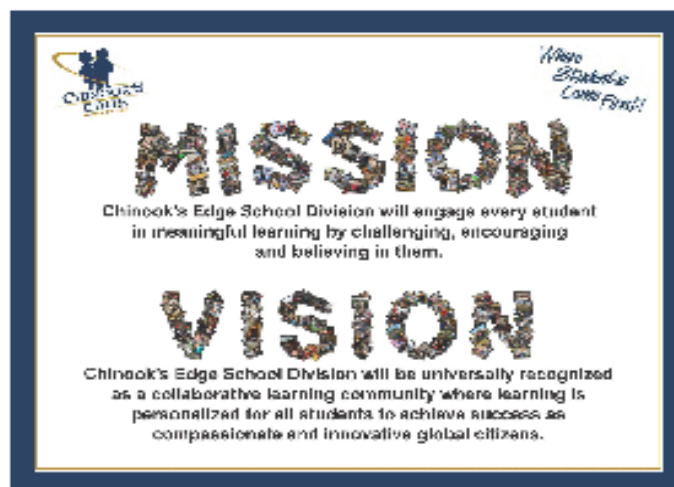
Welcome letter from The Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education: [click here](#)

Ready to go with new provincial curriculum



Twenty-five Kindergarten to Grade 3 teachers from schools across the division worked in grade teams to collaboratively create resources to support implementation of the [K-3 curriculum](#). They found that, while there are some new or refreshed initiatives, the curriculum has clear connections to the three division goals in Chinook's Edge:

**Academic Excellence
Social Emotional Well-being
Career Connections**



cesd73.ca

Welcome Back

**WELCOME BACK
BREAKFAST**

Friday
September
9th



School Photo Day



School Photos

Wednesday September 7, 2022

Retakes will be in October 2022

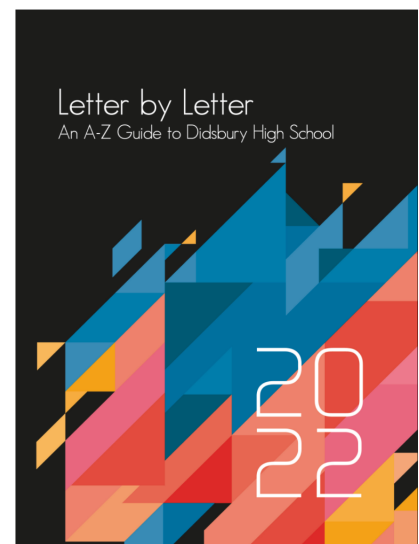
Yearbook News

2021/2022 DHS Yearbook

The 2021/2022 Edition of the
DHS Yearbook will be distributed early in September!

Don't forget to order your 2022/2023
Yearbook early.

Orders can be placed through the online school fees
payment program.



2022 VOLLEYBALL Team Tryouts

Gr 9 Girls - Tuesday September 6th - 3:30-5:00

Senior Girls - Tuesday September 6th - 5:00-6:30

All Boys - Tuesday September 6 at lunch 12:05 pm

All Boys - Thursday September 8 3:30-5:00



DHS CROSS COUNTRY

DHS is looking for students to participate in Cross Country.

**Please see
Mr. Bates as soon
as possible**

DHS GOLF

**Any Grade 10-12 Students
interested in Golf for 2022, please
see Mr. Bates
as soon as possible**



GRAD 2023

General Meeting

Monday October 3rd

7 pm

DHS Gymnasium

Parents and Grads please attend

GRAD 2023 Dates

Cap & Gown Ceremony

Friday June 23, 2023 7:00 pm

Celebrations Banquet

Saturday June 24, 2023



JOSTEN'S GRAD 2023 RING DAY
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

Annual Demographic Forms



A reminder to all Parents, the
Online Demographic Updates
have been sent to your emails.
Please complete by September 17, 2022

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.

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

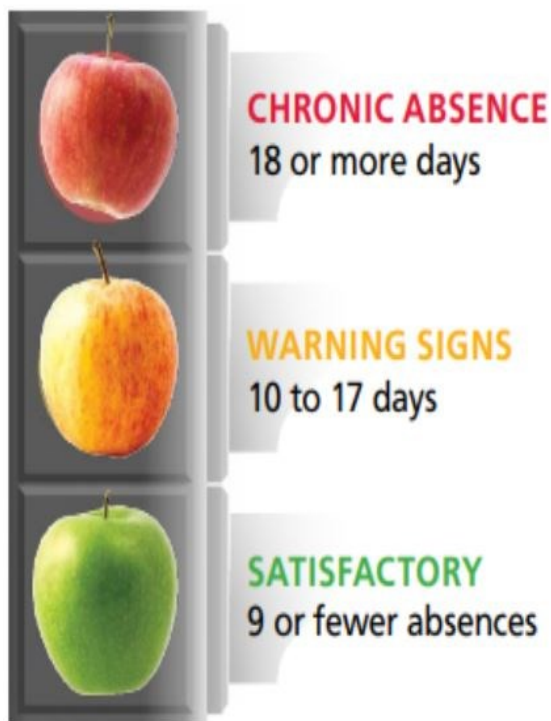
Child struggling academically

Lack of engagement in the instruction

Incompatible school climate

Parents had negative school experience

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



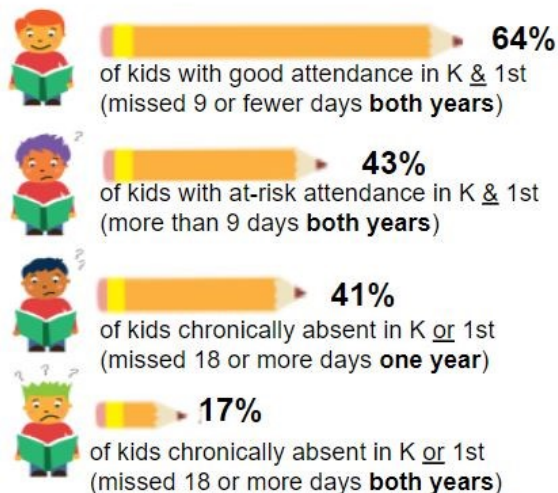
Help Your Child Stay Healthy and Engaged

- **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.

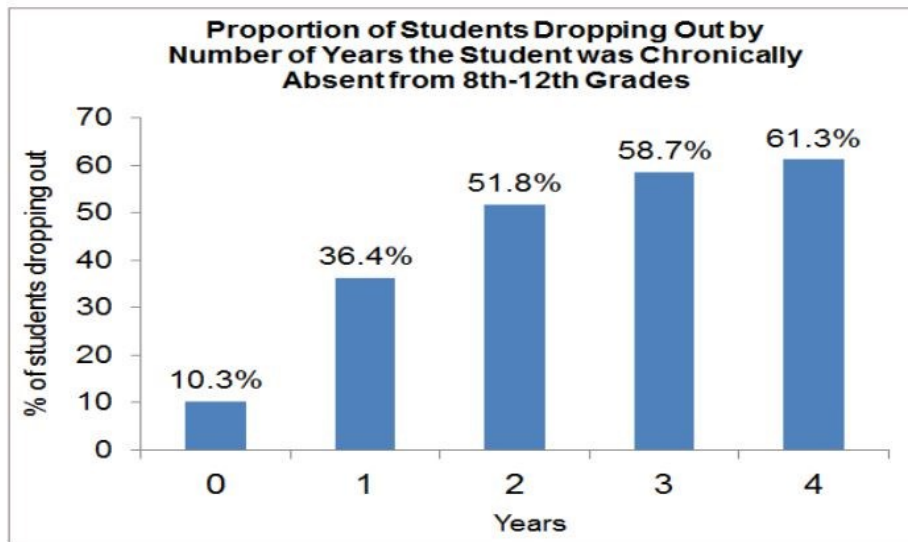
Who Can Read at Grade Level After Grade 3?



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.



CHINOOK'S EDGE
SCHOOL DIVISION

**Terry Fox Run
@ DHS
Monday
September 26th
11 am**

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 4 |
| Thanksgiving Day—No School | October 10 |
| Band AGM Meeting | October 12 |
| Interim Report Cards | October 14 |
| Parent Teacher Interviews | October 20 |
| Collaborative Day—No School | October 21 |





Chinook's Edge School Division

2022-2023 Student Attendance Traditional Calendar

| AUGUST 2022 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 29 School Organizational Day
 Aug 30 Focused PD Day
 Aug 31 School Organizational Day

| SEPTEMBER 2022 | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 Students' First Day of School
 Sept 5 Labour Day
 Sept 23 Focused PD Day
 Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

| OCTOBER 2022 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 10 Thanksgiving Day
 Oct 21 Collaborative Day (HS Common Collab)

| NOVEMBER 2022 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 11 Remembrance Day
 Nov 10-11 Fall Break
 Nov 25 Collaborative Day (HS Common Collab)

| DECEMBER 2022 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 9 Non Instructional Day
 Dec 26-31 Christmas Break

| JANUARY 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 | | | | |

Jan 2-6 Christmas Break
 Jan 9 Students Return
 Jan 30 School Organizational Day

| FEBRUARY 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 | | | | |

Feb 10 Collaborative Day (HS Common Collab)
 Feb 20 Family Day
 Feb 20-24 Winter Break
 Feb 23-24 Teachers' Convention

| MARCH 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 | |

Mar 10 Collaborative Day
 Mar 24 Non Instructional Day

| APRIL 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 | | | | | | |

Apr 7 Good Friday
 Apr 10 Easter Monday
 Apr 11-14 Spring Break

| MAY 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 | | | |

May 5 Collaborative Day
 May 19 Focused PD Day (TPGP Day)
 May 22 Victoria Day
 May 29 Non Instructional Day

| JUNE 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 | |

Jun 27 Students Last Day (noon dismissal)
 Jun 28 School Organizational Day

| LEGEND | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|--|--|
| | School Planning Day | | Teachers' Convention |
| | Focused PD Day | | Significant Start and End Dates |
| | Holiday | | Breaks |
| | Non Instructional Day | | Collaborative Days - No school for students. One Focused PD Day will be designated as the TPGP |



CESD appreciates feedback from all of our stakeholders in the creation of this calendar. Over 2000 CESD staff members, parents and students contributed to the most recent CESD Calendar Survey. The next opportunity for feedback will be in the 2022-2023 school year.

April 28, 2022

September 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|-------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 First Day of School! Welcome Back | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Labor Day No Classes | 6 | 7 School Picture Day | 8 | 9 Welcome Back Breakfast | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 2021/2022 Student Awards Night 7 pm | 23 Focused PD Day No Classes Sr Girls VBall Tournament | 24 Sr Girls VBall Tournament |
| 25 | 26 Terry Fox Run 11 am | 27 | 28 | 29 Orange Shirt Day Jostens Grad 2023 Ring Day Gr 9 Blackfoot Crossing FT | 30 Truth & Reconciliation Day No Classes | |

October 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 Grad 2023 General Mtg 7pm | 4 School Council Mtg 7 pm | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10  Thanksgiving! | 11 | 12 Band AGM Mtg 7 pm | 13 | 14 Interim Report Cards | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Parent/Teacher Interviews 4:00-7:00 Appointment Required | 21 Collaborative Day - No Classes | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 Halloween Activities  | | | | | |