



VCHS Parent Prowler



Greetings VCHS families. We hope everyone has had a great start to the school year. For those of you who are new to VCHS we will send out a weekly Parent Prowler that will highlight the week's activities and events, include important information and identify upcoming dates to be aware of.

School Items:

Cell Phones: EIPS and VCHS has implemented a new cell phone policy which has been in effect since the first day of classes. For more information, please refer to the article below or if you require further clarification, please contact us at the school.

School Security: The school doors will be unlocked daily at 7:30 am and will be locked at 4:00 pm. For after hour gym activities (evenings and weekends) the main doors will be locked but the North East gym entrance will be open.

Parent council : Our first Parent Council meeting is scheduled for September 30 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the Library Learning Commons. We encourage parents to attend and will be looking to fill the positions for the 2019-2020 school year. Please see Mr. Leatherdale if you have any questions regarding what the roles entail.

WOW: Our Cougar Council students have a number of activities planned for this coming week. Activities will be shared through daily announcements and on our social media accounts.

Meet the Staff: We will be hosting a Meet the Staff evening from 4:00 - 6:00 pm this coming Tuesday.

Monday September 16

Senior Golf Zones at Whitetail Golf Course

Tuesday September 17

Meet the Teacher Night 4:00-6:00 pm

VCHS Football hosts Provost

Wednesday September 18

VMPA Meeting 6:30 pm in Learning Commons

EIPS Junior High Cross Country

Thursday September 19

School Picture Day



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ons visiting our Social Studies 30 classes
Apply Alberta Scholarship Presentation: lunchtime room 31
Bamfield Meeting 5:00pm

Friday September 20

September 19-21 Junior B Volleyball

Have a great week! Mrs. Warawa & Mr. Leatherdale

EIPS Items

Enhancing literacy and numeracy

As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy and numeracy of students in all grade levels, the Division is once again administering the STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI) assessment tools in the 2019-20 school year. The tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: To provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure student learning needs are identified.

In September and May, EIPS students in grades 1 through 12 will complete the STAR 360 assessment, which evaluates reading comprehension. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and is administered on a digital device. Also, in September, students in grades 2 through 10 will complete the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematic screening tool used to inform teachers about a student's math skills. For students in grades 7 through 10, the MIPI takes approximately 50 minutes, and for students in grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results offer the teacher a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

The scores of the assessments aren't used toward a student's grade, and there is no need to study ahead of time. The tools simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies.

For more information about the Division's STAR 360 and MIPI assessment tools, contact EIPS Supports for Students at 780-464-3477.

Quick Facts: Video surveillance

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? Video surveillance and equipment helps:



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safety of all students, drivers and property; and

- discourage destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP). The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP Co-ordinator at 780-464-3477.

Caregiver Education Series

The Division, in partnership with Alberta Health Services and Elk Island Catholic Schools, is hosting a series of caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. This year, session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, and more.

Visit the [Division calendar](#) to see all scheduled caregiver sessions.

EIPS Launches New Cellphone Policy

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of Trustees has approved a new policy regarding cellphones. [Policy 24, Personal Communication Devices](#) outlines how students and staff use cellphones and personal devices within EIPS schools. The goal: To ensure all students use technology responsibly and develop skills in digital citizenship.

To develop the policy, the Board undertook a comprehensive review of the Division's existing procedures and practices used to oversee the use of student-owned technology in the classroom. It also conducted extensive public consultations with students, teachers, school administrators and EIPS families. Overall, the feedback was invaluable and provided a clear picture of how to best manage the use of these devices.

Policy highlights:

Students in kindergarten to Grade 6: No access to cellphones or personal devices during the school day, including during breaks and the lunch hour—the only exception, students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need.

Students in grades 7 to 9: No access to cellphones or personal devices during class time—the only exceptions, students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need, and when given permission by a teacher for a specific educational task or purpose. Students can access their device during identified break periods, including between classes and the lunch hour.



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12: No access to cellphones or personal devices during class ti

students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need, and when given permission by a teacher for a specific educational task or purpose. Students can access their device during spare periods and identified breaks, including between classes and the lunch hour.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure learning takes place in an environment with fewer distractions. When students can focus on what's taking place in the classroom and can interact directly with the teacher and other students, they're in a better position to grow and succeed.

Update Your PowerSchool Information

The [PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form](#) is now available online, which replaces the paper form sent to families each fall. Families can use the form to access and update their child's information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and any medical information. Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child. All **VCHS** families are asked to review their child's [PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form](#) by Sept. 20, 2019.

For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form and opt-out options contact the school directly.

NOTE: Parents or guardians who've opted out of having the Correction and Verification Form visible on PowerSchool, will receive a paper version to review from the school.

Sync the School Calendar to Your Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? You can. Simply, visit <https://www.vegcomp.ca/about/calendar#/month/2020/01> and click on one of the following calendar options you want to subscribe to:

- Add to Google Calendar: Google calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar: Outlook
- Download iCal: Apple calendar

NOTE: Options are located above the calendar.

Once you click on the calendar option you want to subscribe to, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all of Vegreville Composite High School's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

Pay School Fees Online!



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The 2019-20 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal in late September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution.

Don't forget to log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of certain school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more. Additionally, junior high and senior high fees can change as courses are added and deleted—the course change deadline is September 13, 2019].

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your student fees, you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of Fees. The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2019.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit eips.ca/schools/fees. Alternatively, contact Mrs. Soldan, Business Manager, at 780-632-3341.