

# THE EDUCATION CONNECTION

The latest news and information from Fort Vermilion School Division for the upcoming school year.



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## IN THIS ISSUE

CAREER PATH PRIORITY ....	2
NEW VISION & MISSION STATEMENT .....	2
DUAL CREDIT .....	2
HOME EDUCATION & BLENDED PROGRAMS .....	2
BUSSING .....	3
OUR SCHOOLS .....	4
TRUSTEES .....	5
CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION.....	5
2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR.....	6

## SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

*Happy summer break everyone!*

I trust students, parents/guardians and staff are enjoying family time and staying safe this summer.

**FVSD has added a fourth priority this year:**

- All students will be **exposed to, engaged in and build skills for their CAREER PATH.**

**Along with our current priorities:**

- FVSD will **foster CONNECTIVITY and well-being** amongst community, students, parents and staff.
- All students will **improve LITERACY skills.**
- All students will **improve NUMERACY skills.**



I continue to be amazed and appreciative of the tremendous commitment by the FVSD staff to make a positive difference for students and their families, as well as supporting the community in which you live and serve.

FVSD will continue to focus on the current three priorities and expanding to the fourth priority through the collegiate model. We are looking forward to completing our renovations on three buildings to hold space where students will be able to complete post secondary credits or licensing from accredited licensed organizations. This will ensure that all students leave the district with credentials to further their career or educational path.


The **2023-24 school year begins on September 5<sup>th</sup> for students**, and with that comes much excitement for everyone. The staff of FVSD will continue to strive to provide an educational environment in which the Alberta curriculum is delivered in a manner that is meaningful, engaging, challenging and fulfilling. It is our desire that all students complete high school and that they are prepared for a life of continued learning and success. As always please contact your local school to plan for the education of your children.

The motto of the Fort Vermilion School Division is:

***“Our Children, Our Students,  
Our Future: Moving the Dial on Every Child”***

With this is mind we will continue to connect with communities to provide the best programming for all students.

*Michael McMann*  
**Superintendent of Schools**



**Welcome Back!**  
First Day of classes is **September 5, 2023!**

# NEW Division Priority: CAREER PATH

The 2023-2024 school year will see a new Division Priority added to the existing three.

In addition to our current focus on **Connectivity, Literacy, and Numeracy** FVSD will also be prioritizing **Career Paths** for all high school students.

#### PRIORITY #4:

***All students will be exposed to, engaged in and build skills for their CAREER PATH.***

To help students achieve success, FVSD is currently working to establish a collegiate model of education delivery.

The **Connecting Futures Collegiate School** will begin offering some programming this school year with an official launch date set for September 2024!

*For more information regarding career paths and our new Collegiate School programs please contact your high school counselor or the FVSD District Career Path Principal.*

**Anne Roberts,  
District Career Path  
Principal**

Phone: 780-926-3706  
Email: anner@fvsd.ab.ca

*Or visit our website:*

**[www.fvsd.ab.ca/  
parents/career-planning](http://www.fvsd.ab.ca/parents/career-planning)**

# Dual Credit Courses Available for FVSD High School Students

***Get a jump start on your career by enrolling in a dual credit course!***

Dual credit programs provide high school students with the opportunity to begin a post-secondary course prior to graduation. Enrolled students earn both high school and college credits.

Educating our own health care workers, educators, social workers and trades people is a high priority for FVSD. Students looking to

pursue university studies can also take University Transfer courses through this program.

**All FVSD high school students and recent graduates who are under 20 years of age as of Sept. 1, 2023 are eligible to enroll.**

*Contact your high school counselor or visit our website for more information:*

**[www.fvsd.ab.ca/  
parents/career-planning](http://www.fvsd.ab.ca/parents/career-planning)**

# Vision & Mission Updated

#### VISION STATEMENT:

At the Fort Vermilion School Division, our vision is to provide an inclusive and nurturing learning environment that inspires and challenges students to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens. We strive to foster a culture of respect, empathy, and collaboration, where students feel supported and encouraged to achieve their full potential. Through innovative teaching methods, we aim to equip our students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to succeed in a rapidly changing world. Our goal is to empower students to be critical thinkers, creative problem solvers, and compassionate leaders who will make a positive impact in their communities and

beyond. The Fort Vermilion School Division strives to be the best educational choice for parents and students.

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

At the Fort Vermilion School Division, our mission is to provide a high quality, comprehensive education that prepares students for success in college, career, and life. We are committed to creating a safe and supportive learning environment with parents and community that fosters academic excellence, personal growth, and responsibility. Through our understanding of each community's history, family, and faith, we strive to inspire a lifelong love of learning and to cultivate the skills and character traits necessary for success in the world today.

# Homeschool Support & Blended Programs with Northern Home Education

***Looking for a homeschool provider? Stay local with Northern Home Education Centre!***

Receive individualized curriculum and resource support and be part of an active and engaged homeschooling community. Northern Home Education (NHEC) regularly hosts social activities and events like the *Curriculum Sharing Event*.

Choose from the Alberta grade level curriculum or a home education program of your choice.

NHEC families have early access to funding. Beginning May 1, parents may begin purchasing materials

for the following school year, up to a maximum amount of \$850 per student, per school year. Reimbursements for homeschooling expenses happen throughout the school year with purchasing assistance available for families unable to make large purchases up front.

*Unsure about teaching Math or LA? Take advantage of blended programming with **Pathways!** Your child can join a class receiving real-time instruction from a locally based, certified teacher.*

**Phone or email us!**

Phone: 780-928-0212  
Email: nhec@fvsd.ab.ca

OFFICE: 10308-100 Street, La Crete

**<https://nhe.fvsd.ab.ca>**

*In partnership with:*





# Getting There — Transportation Information

Families who are new to the area or have moved over the summer, please call FVSD Essential Services to ensure bussing is arranged or to find out eligibility. New students **MUST** be registered at school before bussing will be approved.

## In Town Bussing

There has been a change to in town bussing! Children in **Grades K-6** who live a distance **greater than 1 km from their school**, and students in **Grades 7-12** who live a distance **greater than 2 km from their school** qualify to ride the bus at *no charge*.



These students have been automatically registered to ride the bus and **you will receive a phone call from your bus driver before the first day of school**. Families should have received an **automated text** to confirm ridership and address. *If you think you qualify but did not receive a text message phone Essential Services and they will confirm.*

Students in grades K-6 who live within 1 km from their school and students in grades 7-12 who live within 2 km from their school do not qualify for bussing and parents will have to arrange their own transportation.

*Because the **distance is calculated from each child's school** some parents may have children who qualify for bussing and children who don't qualify living in the same household.*

## Unsafe Driving Conditions

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Essential Services, has authority to suspend, cancel or reroute bus service as necessary. Bus service in affected areas will be cancelled by 6:30 AM by the Director of Essential Services when the temperature reaches **-40°C without the wind or -48°C with the wind as measured by Environment Canada Data**. This will be posted to the schools' website and Facebook pages. In the event of a bus cancellation, drivers will inform all parents on the route as soon as possible. All students riding the bus are required to wear adequate clothing to ensure their safety during cold weather.

## Yard Service Fees

Yard service is available for a cost of **\$75 per month**. In order to receive yard service, the yard **MUST**:

- have a driveway wide enough to accommodate the bus,
- have an appropriate space to turn the bus around with sufficient clearance between the turn-around and any items such as vehicles, ATV's, sheds, etc.,
- have snow promptly and regularly cleared from the yard and driveway in winter, and
- have a driveway and turn around area that is not excessively muddy.

**Yard service will be provided at no cost for:**

- families with a student that is physically disabled,
- families with a driveway in a location that does not allow for safe pick up at the road.

In an effort to control costs and ride times, each yard service will be re-evaluated in the coming year. Having received yard service in the past is not a guarantee of receiving it again this year.

*For yard service approval, please contact **Essential Services**. If applicable, fees must be paid prior to commencement of yard service.*

## Cross Boundary Transfers

Cross boundary transfers for children attending a school outside their attendance boundary **MUST** be approved by the **Director of Essential Services, Bruce Harder**.

*Call the **Essential Services Office** for more information, or email [BruceH@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:BruceH@fvsd.ab.ca).*



Our **FREE** app, **Bus Status** is available from the Apple App Store and on Google Play.

No smartphone? Head to [www.fvsd.ab.ca](http://www.fvsd.ab.ca) and click the bus icon at the top.

**CURRENT APP USERS:** Bus Status is getting a new app this summer! Be sure to download the new app in August to continue receiving bus status notifications.

Didn't receive a text message for in town bussing or have a question?

OFFICE PHONE:  
**780-928-3860**

9705B-99 Street  
La Crete AB

Office Email: [essentialservices@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:essentialservices@fvsd.ab.ca)

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION ▶

New to the area? Scan the code for more information and a downloadable registration form. Forms are also available from any school office.



*Completed registration forms can be dropped off in your school office on or after August 29, 2023.*

[www.fvsd.ab.ca/parents/registration](http://www.fvsd.ab.ca/parents/registration)



## BLUE HILLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

BHCS (K-12)

Phone: 780-928-3632  
Email: [bhcs@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:bhcs@fvsd.ab.ca)

[www.fvsd.ab.ca/our-schools/bhcs](http://www.fvsd.ab.ca/our-schools/bhcs)

Principal: *Dave Gallant*  
Assistant Principal:  
*David McDougall*



## BUFFALO HEAD PRAIRIE SCHOOL

BHPS (K-9)

Phone: 780-928-2282  
Email: [bhps@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:bhps@fvsd.ab.ca)

[www.fvsd.ab.ca/our-schools/bhps](http://www.fvsd.ab.ca/our-schools/bhps)

Principal: *Chris Fehr*  
Assistant Principal:  
*Dale Driedger*



## FLORENCE MACDOUGALL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

FMCS (K-3)

Phone: 780-926-2331  
Email: [fmcs@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:fmcs@fvsd.ab.ca)

[facebook.com/fmcsclubs](https://facebook.com/fmcsclubs)

Principal: *Stefanie Brown*  
Assistant Principal:  
*Melanie Arcand*



## FORT VERMILION PUBLIC SCHOOL

FVPS (7-12)

Phone: 780-927-3706  
Email: [fvps@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:fvps@fvsd.ab.ca)

[facebook.com/fvpssmcs](https://facebook.com/fvpssmcs)

Principal: *Kemoy Shaw*  
Assistant Principal:  
*Megan Hardy*



## HIGH LEVEL PUBLIC SCHOOL

HLPS (7-12)

Phone: 780-926-3706  
Email: [hpls@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:hpls@fvsd.ab.ca)

[facebook.com/highlevelpublic](https://facebook.com/highlevelpublic)

Principal: *Amber Paul*  
Assistant Principals: *Sarah Chisholm, Stephen Kirkpatrick*



## HILL CREST COMMUNITY SCHOOL

HCCS (K-9)

Phone: 780-927-3203  
Email: [hccs@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:hccs@fvsd.ab.ca)

[www.fvsd.ab.ca/our-schools/hccs](http://www.fvsd.ab.ca/our-schools/hccs)

Principal: *Ben Giesbrecht*  
Assistant Principal:  
*Jennifer Perry*



## LA CRETE PUBLIC SCHOOL

LCPS (7-12)

Phone: 780-928-3913  
Email: [lcps@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:lcps@fvsd.ab.ca)

[facebook.com/lcplancers](https://facebook.com/lcplancers)

Principal: *Gregg McNeil*  
Assistant Principal:  
*Rachel Dika*



## RAINBOW LAKE SCHOOL

RLKS (K-12)

Phone: 780-956-3851  
Email: [rlks@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:rlks@fvsd.ab.ca)

[facebook.com/rainbowlakeschool](https://facebook.com/rainbowlakeschool)

Principal: *Stephanie Connors*



## RIDGEVIEW CENTRAL SCHOOL

RVCS (4-6)

Phone: 780-928-3100  
Email: [rvcs@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:rvcs@fvsd.ab.ca)

[facebook.com/rvcshuskies](https://facebook.com/rvcshuskies)

Principal: *Ron Wiebe*  
Assistant Principal:  
*Eran Cardinal*



## ROCKY LANE SCHOOL

RLNS (K-12)

Phone: 780-927-3297  
Email: [rlns@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:rlns@fvsd.ab.ca)

[facebook.com/rlnsrockets](https://facebook.com/rlnsrockets)

Principal: *Grant Charles*  
Assistant Principal:  
*Cynthia White*



## SAND HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SHES (K-3)

Phone: 780-928-3947  
Email: [shes@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:shes@fvsd.ab.ca)

[facebook.com/sandhillselementaryschool](https://facebook.com/sandhillselementaryschool)

Principal: *Wendy Morris*  
Assistant Principal:  
*Julie Gallant*



## SPIRIT OF THE NORTH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SNCS (4-6)

Phone: 780-841-7200  
Email: [sncs@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:sncs@fvsd.ab.ca)

[facebook.com/sncsstars](https://facebook.com/sncsstars)

Principal: *Cory Boudreau*  
Assistant Principal:  
*Candice Scott*



## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SMCS (K-6)

Phone: 780-927-3706  
Email: [smcs@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:smcs@fvsd.ab.ca)

[facebook.com/fvpssmcs](https://facebook.com/fvpssmcs)

Principal: *Kemoy Shaw*  
Assistant Principal:  
*Megan Hardy*



## UPPER HAY RIVER SCHOOL

UHRS (K-12)

Phone: 780-535-2220  
Email: [uhrs@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:uhrs@fvsd.ab.ca)

[facebook.com/upperhayriverschool](https://facebook.com/upperhayriverschool)

Principal:  
*Shelly Komarnicki*



## PATHWAYS SCHOOL

PATH (1-12)

Phone: 780-926-3626  
Email: [pathways@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:pathways@fvsd.ab.ca)

[facebook.com/fvsdpathways](https://facebook.com/fvsdpathways)

Principal: *Kim Brown*  
Assistant Principals:  
*Anna McAskile, Maija Mayo*



## NORTHERN HOME EDUCATION CENTRE

NHEC (1-12)

Phone: 780-928-0212  
Email: [nhec@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:nhec@fvsd.ab.ca)

[facebook.com/northernhomeeducation](https://facebook.com/northernhomeeducation)

Principal: *Chad Fyke*  
Liaison / Admin. Assistant:  
*Rachel Neufeld*

**Student Fee Structure:** *The FVSD Board of Trustees removed all instructional fees, including CTS charged to parents, effective September 2020. Schools may charge fees for non curricular activities, clubs and sports as outlined in the school handbook and in accordance with the FVSD Fee Schedule. Fees are due and payable prior to receipt of services unless arrangements are made with the school principal for alternative terms of payment.*

*The Board of Trustees recognizes that while fees are necessary, some parents or students may be unable to afford such fees. To ensure that students have access to a basic education the Board, through this policy, makes provision for forgiving fees where economic hardship can be demonstrated. Additional details are provided on the FVSD website.*



*Pictured above, from left to right: Linda Kowal, Amanda Paul, Benjamin Friesen, Dale Lederer, Tim Driedger, Marc Beland, Shane Lloyd, John Zacharias, Henry Goertzen*

## Central Office Administration

### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**Michael McMann**  
mikem@fvsd.ab.ca

### ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS

**Terry Gibson**  
terryg@fvsd.ab.ca

### ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENTS OF LEARNING

**Karen Smith**  
karens@fvsd.ab.ca

**Natalie Morris**  
nataliem@fvsd.ab.ca

### LEARNING SERVICES SUPERVISORS

Natalie Morris | *Connectivity*  
nataliem@fvsd.ab.ca

Sharon McLean | *Literacy*  
sharonm@fvsd.ab.ca

Gilbert Morris | *Numeracy*  
gilbertm@fvsd.ab.ca

Bonnie Hunley | *Teacher Induction*  
bonnieh@fvsd.ab.ca

### ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

**Norman Buhler**  
normanb@fvsd.ab.ca

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE  
Payne Cardinal  
paynec@fvsd.ab.ca

### DIRECTOR OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

**Bruce Harder**  
bruceh@fvsd.ab.ca

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR  
Reuben Peters  
reubenp@fvsd.ab.ca

OHS COORDINATOR / HOUSING COORDINATOR  
Cory Wright  
coryw@fvsd.ab.ca

## Trustees

The FVSD Board of Trustees is made up of nine elected individuals. The current Board was elected in October 2021 and will serve until October 2025. Board Policies, Meeting Agendas/Minutes and more information about our current Board of Trustees can be found on our website.

[www.fvsd.ab.ca/trustees](http://www.fvsd.ab.ca/trustees)

### TRUSTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

#### WARD 1 | Rainbow Lake

**Dale Lederer**  
dalel@fvsd.ab.ca  
cell: 780-956-6525

#### WARD 2 | High Level

**Marc Beland, Chair**  
marcb@fvsd.ab.ca  
cell: 780-841-4220

#### WARD 2 | High Level

**Shane Lloyd**  
shanel@fvsd.ab.ca  
cell: 780-926-6716

#### WARD 3 | Rocky Lane

**Linda Kowal**  
lindako@fvsd.ab.ca  
cell: 780-841-9295

#### WARD 4 | Fort Vermillion

**Amanda Paul**  
amandap1@fvsd.ab.ca  
cell: 780-841-3709

#### WARD 5 | Blumenort

**Henry Goertzen**  
henryg@fvsd.ab.ca  
cell: 780-502-3775

#### WARD 6 | La Crete

**Tim Driedger, Vice Chair**  
timd@fvsd.ab.ca  
cell: 780-926-6044

#### WARD 6 | La Crete

**Benjamin Friesen**  
benjaminf@fvsd.ab.ca  
cell: 780-285-1160

#### WARD 7 | Buffalo Head Prairie/Tompkins Landing

**John Zacharias**  
johnz@fvsd.ab.ca  
cell: 780-841-4741

**FVSD MOTTO: *Our Children, Our Students, Our Future: Moving the Dial on Every Child***



# Fort Vermilion School Division 2023-2024 School 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		

**August**  
 7—Civic Holiday  
 28—First Year Teachers only  
 29—Organizational Day  
 30-31—Professional Development Days  
 O = 3 I = 0

**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		

**February**  
 9—Professional Development Day  
 12-14—School Closed  
 15-16—Teachers' Convention  
 19—Family Day  
 O = 17 I = 14

**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

**September**  
 1—Organizational Day  
 4—Labour Day  
 5—First day of classes  
 30—National Day for Truth & Reconciliation  
 O = 20 I = 19

**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						

**March**  
 15—Professional Development Day  
 29—Good Friday/First day of Spring break  
 31—Easter Sunday  
 O = 20 I = 19

**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				

**October**  
 6—Professional Development Day  
 9—Thanksgiving Day  
 O = 21 I = 20

**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				

**April**  
 1—Easter Monday  
 8—Classes Resume  
 19—Last day of Quad 3  
 22—First day of Quad 4  
 O = 17 I = 17 (10+7)

**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		

**November**  
 9—Last day of Quad 1  
 10—Professional Development Day  
 11—Remembrance Day  
 13—Remembrance Day (observed)  
 14—First day of Quad 2  
 O = 21 I = 20 (7+13)

**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**  
 9—Ascension  
 17—School Closed  
 20—Victoria Day  
 21—School Closed  
 O = 20 I = 20

**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						

**December**  
 20—First day of Christmas break  
 25—Christmas Day  
 26—Boxing Day  
 O = 13 I = 13

**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						

**June**  
 21—Last day for K-9 students  
 24-26—PD for K-9 Teachers  
 26—Last day for 10-12 students  
 27—Organizational Day  
 28—Summer break begins  
 O = 19 I = 15 (K-9) I = 18 (10-12)

**January 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			

**January**  
 1—New Year's Day  
 8—Classes resume  
 30—Last day of Semester 1/Quad 2  
 31—First day of Semester 2/Quad 3  
 O = 17+1 I = 17+1

**July 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			

**July**  
 1—Canada Day

**2023-2024 School Year**

Semester 1	K-9	10-12	Semester 2	K-9	10-12	Total Days for Year	K-9	10-12
Operational Days =	95	95	Operational Days =	96	96	Operational Days =	189	189
Instructional Days =	89	89	Instructional Days =	86	89	Instructional Days =	175	178
Quad 1 =	46		Quad 2 =	43		Quad 3 =	44	
						Quad 4 =	45	

● Professional Development (no classes for students)
 ● Organizational Day (no classes for students)
  Holidays
 ◇ PAT/Diploma Exams

**Elementary, Junior High:** Based on 326 minutes instructional day X 175 days = 951 hours.

**High School:** Based on 340 minutes instructional day X 178 days = 1009 hours.