



Principal's Report to School Council
September 3, 2025

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Principal
New Horizons School

Welcome Back: I hope everyone had a safe and restful summer break. We are excited to be back and are off to a good start to the school year. There have been changes to our schedule with early dismissal every Wednesday. In order to ensure the required instructional minutes, our start and end times have also changed with five minutes added each morning and 4 minutes added each afternoon.

Powerschool: As we continue to utilize the features of Powerschool, we have begun uploading forms to the Parent portal for parents and caregivers to digitally sign. The front office has been fielding questions about this as parents get used to accessing the system. Parents and caregivers with children in other school districts are reminded that each school board has their own link to Powerschool so to make sure they are using the New Horizons link sent with their login information.

Technology Update: Currently the Acceptable use for Technology Agreement has been uploaded to Powerschool for parents to sign. This document requires approval for students to access the school provided technology and outlines use for personal technology. This has been updated to include a change to personal device use. Students in Grades 7-9 are still permitted to use their personal devices during recess times but will not be permitted to use them during the eating portion of lunch while on campus. This change was made to encourage more mindful eating and socialization with peers during lunch.

We will have a number of interactive screens delivered for classes to use to enrich their lessons and engage students. These should arrive later in September.

Staffing Updates: We have had some staffing shifts since last school year. Ms. Dinell continues to be on medical leave and Mr. Wong will be in Grade 4 until her return. Ms. Kooger has moved to Grade 1 with Ms. Wain moving back to Grade 2, though she is on medical leave and so Ms. Zalewski is in grade 2 until Ms. Wain's return. Ms. Callies is in Grade 3 until Ms. Mackinnon returns from her maternity leave early in the new year. Ms. Lovlin has taken over our music program as well as L.A. for 7L. Finally, Ms. Joly has shifted to being part time in Jr. High and co-teaching in Grade 6 with Ms. Larsen. Ms. Joly also continues in her role as a Learning Support Teacher. This is a collaborative position to work with teachers to provide enrichment to students.

School Support: We are excited to welcome a half time counsellor to our staff this year. Sasha Ball is a Registered Psychologist who will be providing student mental health support and counselling for our students. This shift from contracting services will provide more consistent counselling support to our students. Referrals for counselling support will continue to come through the administration team or classroom teachers based on student needs at school.

Alberta Education Early Years Assessments: Alberta Education is continuing to require schools to administer Literacy and Numeracy Screens to students in Kindergarten and Grades 1-3. These will be administered and reported in September and January for Grades 1-3 and in January for Kindergarten. Please visit the [Alberta Education website](#) for more information.

Meet the Teacher: We are hosting our Meet the Teacher BBQ for Grades 1-9 on September 10 from 5:30- 7:30 p.m. Teachers will be in their classrooms from 6:00-7:00. Thanks to School Council for organizing the BBQ.

Artist in Residence: Our Artist in Residence for this school year is Groovebox. They will provide a two-week residency in January. Luke from Groovebox has worked with our Jr. High group a couple of years ago and the students and staff reported that his workshop was engaging and fun.

Lunch Supervision and Parent Volunteers:

Any parents wishing to supervise at lunch are asked to fill in the Lunch Supervisor Application form on our website under School Information and Documents. This role can be done on a volunteer or paid basis and volunteers can sign up for one or more days per week.

All new Parents/Caregivers wishing to volunteer for any role in the school do still need to complete the Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check. All parents wishing to volunteer also need to complete our confidentiality agreement. Information on Volunteering can be found [here](#).

School Clubs

We are excited to be offering a number of clubs for students again in all divisions. Volleyball tryouts for Jr. High Students have already begun with the first tournaments taking place in Mid September. The season runs until early November. Our Reach for the Top Trivia will begin later in September.

Communication:

We will continue to send out E-News and post on our website and Facebook regularly. Be sure to check the school calendar and our blog for information!
