



RDPSD Alternative Programs
#202, 5214 47 Ave
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Students, Parents, and Guardians,

As we enter our third week of at-home learning in Red Deer Public Schools, I wanted to quickly reach out and share a few thoughts about our start-up and remind everyone of the expectations and protocols of the At-Home Learning School (AHLS).

First, I would like to personally thank all of you for your patience and understanding over the past couple weeks. We have experienced some setbacks around textbooks, registrations and technology, but for the most part I have been very impressed with all stakeholders as we all navigate this new normal. I am also very encouraged by the daily engagement our students have exhibited to-date, but I also want to remind everyone that in order to complete courses by January students should be expected to spend a minimum of 1.5 hours per course, and roughly five hours of school work daily. Unlike the emergency education mode we were all thrown into last March, students who do not complete their courses entirely by the end of January, will receive a failing grade. It is absolutely imperative that students are working daily on their courses, meeting the deadlines set out by the teachers, and most importantly, contacting teachers when they are struggling. Our teachers are committed to prioritizing parent contact over these next few weeks to ensure that you are aware if there is any worry around engagement, completion or any other concerns. We have been contacting parents over the last couple weeks and I will begin reaching out personally at this end of this week to those families whose students are falling behind or have not yet engaged. I would also strongly encourage you to reach out to your son/daughters teacher to establish a line of communication. You can find a list of teacher contacts on our website (asc.rdpsd.ab.ca) or by clicking [this link](#). Moreover, the very best way to monitor your child's progress is through the PowerSchool app or to be sent Google Classroom summaries. I would highly recommend that you install the PowerSchool app on your phone ([click here for a how-to video](#)) and contact your child's teacher to be added to their classroom for ongoing updates and communications.

EXAMS

Teachers will be communicating to students over the next few weeks that we are expecting all midterms and finals to be written in-person at the Alternative School Centre. We have closed our doors to students in the afternoons so you can rest assured that students writing exams will be physically distanced at all times, and that every precaution has been taken to ensure the safety of your child while in our building. The dates and times of these assessments will be communicated very clearly and in a timely fashion to ensure you have time to plan around them.

Principal: Stephen Pottage
Vice-Principal: Shelley Lower





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We are also working with the district to determine where AHLS students will be writing diploma exams in January and as soon as we have a plan it will be shared with you.

TEACHER SUPPORT

I would also like to remind you that our high school teachers are only available to support at-home learners in the afternoons (M-Th, 12:30pm - 3:00pm). Grade nine learners do have access to Humanities and Science teachers in the mornings from 10:30am - 12:00pm. Please do not call our high school teachers in the morning as they are teaching students in our classrooms. Feel free to send emails in the mornings and our teachers will respond as quickly as possible in the afternoon. If you have an urgent concern, please direct those calls to me.

STUDENT SUPPORT

COVID-19 has been a stressful time for families and students and we know that there are lots of AHLS students who are missing a variety of supports that were offered in their community school. If you have anyone who is struggling and needs help of any kind, please contact me, or your community school, so we can ensure that the correct support is identified and put in place as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and for holding your kids accountable to daily work. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stephen Pottage
District Principal - Alternative Programs and Support Services
Red Deer Public Schools

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