



# FOOTHILLS

## DIGITAL SCHOOL

## FDS Newsletter March 2024

### Notes from Admin!

The end of March is almost upon us! This usually marks the time that we prepare for the upcoming Spring Break. For many of our students, Spring Break is a time to complete any outstanding assignments they may have. After the break, we begin our preparations for the next school year. Our work involves surveying parent and student intentions for the next school year, registering our high school students in their next year courses, and preparing for High School Graduation and the upcoming end-of-the-year assessments.

Over the next few months, you will receive several actionable emails from Foothills Digital School. We thank those families who responded to our family intention form for next year, which has helped us plan.

Please take the time to read through this month's newsletter, as there is important information on the following subjects:

- **Student Attendance at Foothills Digital School**—It is important to remember that **students under 16 are legally required to attend school**. Please read this critical section regarding what constitutes student attendance at an online school and the consequences of not attending.
- **High School Course Registration for 2024-2025**—Students will be sent information via email after Spring Break. Students need to follow registration deadlines, as this determines which courses we will offer for the upcoming school year.
- **High School Course Withdrawal Choices**. We understand that some of our high school students may struggle with a class or a load of online courses. Please read this section regarding the procedure for withdrawing a class. **Please note: Foothills Digital School will not automatically withdraw**

**students who will not complete the course. If they have already graduated, this is the responsibility of the parent(s) or student.**

Foothills Digital School begins Spring Break on Thursday, March 28, at 3:30 PM. We will be off until Monday, April 8, at 8:30 AM. Teachers will be unavailable during that time, and our office will not be open to taking phone calls or responding to emails.

We wish you a wonderful spring break in the next few weeks!

Sincerely,

Sarah Clark and Brad Skeet, Foothills Digital School Admin Team

# Student Attendance at Foothills Digital School

## Student Attendance at Foothills Digital School

As a digital school, we do not measure students' attendance in the traditional manner that an in-person school does. Instead, we look for our students to be logging into their Moodle classes, engaging within those classes, and submitting assignments. Interaction and correspondence with their teachers are also factored in. Students currently not logging in regularly to their classes, simply clicking links without engaging in the class, and not completing the assignments are considered truants from school.

**We remind families that the School Act requires students up to 16 to be enrolled and attending school.** We will email families of students who are currently not attending their classes or submitting assignments as a courtesy to see if there is an improvement in attendance. We will employ an attendance plan after meeting with parents. Should we not see an improvement, we must forward the student's name to our school division attendance officer for legal action. For students in Grades 1-9 who have not submitted enough learning for a teacher to assess, we will contact families regarding the next steps for the 2024-2025 school year.

**High School Students over the Age of 16** who are not engaging with their teachers or the course will receive a courtesy attendance letter as well as a reminder that they have fallen off the pace of their course and should be in contact with their teacher(s) as soon as possible.

We thank you for your attention and support in this critical manner.

# High School Student Registration for 2024-2025

After spring break, we focus on the 2024-2025 school year. We will send out a specific email to our high school students (and their parents if they are under 18) to make their course selections for the 2024-2025 school year. We will provide a video and instructions on registering for our courses. All instructions must be followed carefully.

We will have deadlines for registration as we offer course availability based on registrations we receive. It will be vital that you follow all deadlines laid out. If your student is not returning to Foothills Digital School for the 2024-2025 school year, we will kindly ask that you fill out the parent intention form that will be emailed to families. Again, this assists us in our planning for the next school year. We thank you for your help in this matter!

## Mental Health and Wellness Supports

Foothills School Division is pleased to offer a host of wellness supports available to our students and their families.

To access these supports, please visit

<https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/page/3124/wellness>

If your child requires mental wellness support and you are unsure where to begin, please contact your child's teacher(s). We can connect you with our Family School Liaison Counsellor, Ms. Lindsay Boucher, who can connect with you and determine the next steps for support.

# High School Course Withdrawal Procedure

If your child is in high school, we understand that there are circumstances where students need to withdraw from a class. Students under 18 will need the course withdrawal completed by a parent and sent to Foothills Digital School by email. For our adult students, you must complete and submit the withdrawal form. **Foothills Digital School will only complete a withdrawal from a course with this form.** Please use this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/7WHeWGbjZU> to fill out the form. You will receive an email confirming the withdrawal.

Please contact us if you have further questions. Please note that if a high school student is in danger of not completing the course, the parent or student needs to take responsibility for the withdrawal to avoid a non-passing grade being placed on transcripts. **\*\*Foothills Digital School will not withdraw a student from a course. This is a parent/student responsibility.**



## Scholarships

The Government of Alberta has released more information regarding scholarships. Follow this link to learn more: email : Webview : Alberta Scholarships Update - February 2024 (e2ma.net)

# Important School Dates

**March 29 - April 7** Spring Break (**School Closed**)

**April 8** - Social Studies 30-1 Diploma Exam Part "A" (for those who are scheduled)  
9:00 - 3:00 PM

**April 11** - Math 30-1 Diploma Exam (for those who are scheduled) 9:00 - 3:00 PM

**April 15** - Social Studies 30-1 Diploma Exam Part "B" (for those who are scheduled)  
9:00 - 3:00 PM

**April 22-23** - Professional Development Days (**School Closed**)

**April 24-25** - Foothills Digital School Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences – 3:30 PM–6:00 PM – Online. Please watch for a separate email to sign up.

**May 13** - Grade 9 PAT, ELA Part "A"

**May 15** - Grade 6 PAT, ELA Part "A"

**May 17** - Professional Development Day (**School Closed**)

**May 20** - Victoria Day (**School Closed**)

**June 12** - Gr. 6 & 9 PAT, ELA Part "B"

**June 13** - Gr. 6 & 9 PAT, Mathematics Part "A"

**June 14** - Gr. 6 PAT, Mathematics Part "B"

**June 18** - Gr. 9 PAT, Mathematics Part "B"

**June 19** - Gr. 6 & 9 PAT, Social Studies

**June 20** - Gr. 6 & 9 PAT, Science