



November News

As we write this, we are almost halfway to Term 1/Semester 1 at Foothills Digital School. Halloween is upon us as well. Congratulations to our Junior High leadership students who set up a bake sale to benefit Colton Byerly, a former FDS student, as he battles cancer. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank the students and families at Dr. Morris Gibson School who helped to support this fundraiser. We raised \$ 2,000 for Colton's family—a special thank you to Mrs. Shaw-Dearden for organizing this event!

We would also like to thank Ms. Hinton and Ms. Irwing, who hosted a lively Halloween get-together in our Grade 1-6 program on Friday, October 27. All had a great time as they participated in their scary activities!

This time of year is marked by our parent/teacher/student conferences. This is your opportunity to meet with your child's teacher(s) to discuss your child's progress. You should have received an email from Foothills Digital School providing you with the sign-up link. Conferences will be held on **Wednesday, November 8 and Thursday, November 9, from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM.** Conferences will be virtual using Microsoft Teams. A link has been sent out to you to register. You may also find this link in our Upcoming Events section later in this newsletter.

Please take the time to read through the variety of notices in this newsletter, as they will help you to continue to plan for an excellent school year. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sarah Clark and Brad Skeet, Foothills Digital School Admin Team



Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews

FDS Parent/Teacher Interview evenings are scheduled for Wednesday, November 8th and Thursday, November 9th, 2023, from 3:00 – 6:00 pm. Appointment times will be limited to 10 minutes each. Please follow this [link](#) to book a time with your student's teacher. You will also find the link on our website under **Family & Community>Parent Teacher Conference**.

Please Do Not Select the "Anyone" from the Drop-down list.

If you cannot meet with a teacher on these days, or if there are no spots available, please be sure to contact them at any time to talk about your child's learning or to set up an alternate time to meet.



Verification Forms

2023/24 Student Verification Form has been shared with your Parent Portals. A verification form **MUST** be completed for every student. The portal is on our Web Page **Family & Community>Edsembli Parent Login**.

Please log in to the Parent Portal ([Parent Edsembli](#)) to complete the form by **November 10, 2023**, and please see the attachment for instructions on how to complete the form online. If you are having difficulties accessing your site (this is the same site where you see your fees and student Lerner Profiles), please contact Mrs. Thorbjornsen at thorbjornsent@fsd38.ab.ca



High School Course Update

We are now almost halfway through Semester 1 in many of our classes. If students have been engaged in their classes and completing all assignments as per their course pacing guide, the chances are that they are on track for an on-time finish.

However, we have some students with little or no class engagement. We ask parents or students to contact their teacher, especially if they have received communication from that teacher regarding the student falling off the course pace. Our teachers can work with students to catch up on this pacing.

Sometimes, however, a student may be too far off the pace to complete the assignments and assessments required in the course. This when students must consider *withdrawal from courses*. Many students mistakenly feel they can catch up on 2 months of missed

learning. However, our classes are designed with five months of learning in mind, so this is difficult. Students will often withdraw to **avoid a non-passing grade from appearing on their transcripts.**

As a school, we will send withdrawal reminders to students on November 30 who have not engaged in their classes and cannot complete the course successfully.

Students under 18 years old will need the course withdrawal to be completed by a parent, scanned, and sent to Foothills Digital School by email. For our adult students, you must download and complete the withdrawal form. **Foothills Digital School will not complete a withdrawal from a course without this form. Please use this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/7WHeWGbZU> to fill out the form. You will receive an email confirming the withdrawal.**

Please reach out to us if you have further questions regarding this.



Foothills School Division System of Reporting

Starting for the 2023-2024 school year, Foothills School Division will email all families at the end of each month to remind them to check their child's progress in their classes. This is an important piece of our reporting system and ensures we can address student needs well before issuing a Learner Profile (report card). You may read more about this at this link: [Parent Guide to assessment & reporting \(Newsletter format\) \(foothillsschooldivision.ca\)](#)

Foothills Digital School has two reporting systems as we have a diverse learning population.

Grades 1-9 students – parents will receive an email each month from Foothills School Division for you to check your child's Edsembli grade books. You will see summative grades (grades applied to the learner profile). Should you wish to have more information regarding teacher feedback on these assignments, please contact your child's teacher, and they can direct you to your child's assignments for feedback.

Grades 10-12 students – our high school teachers use the Moodle Gradebook and Parent Portal to report achievement. Parents should have received an email from Doug Stevens with their login (your email address) and password when the course started. Each month, you will receive an email from Foothills School Division asking you to check your child's progress in Edsembli. **Instead, we ask you to view the Moodle Parent Portal.** You may follow the instructions at this link to view your child's gradebook on the Moodle Parent Portal: [FDS Progress Report Email to Parents.docx](#). This is only for Grades 10-12.



Accessing Your Edsembli Account

Edsembli is our Student Information System Database, the heart of every school in Foothills School Division. From your first registration to looking at your timetable to paying your fees, Edsembli is an essential tool for parents. Parents use the Edsembli

ConnectEd.

To access student records through Edsembli, you may click on the following links:

Parent portal:

<https://connect.edsembli.com/AB/FSD/fvs/Portal/viewer/Login/Login.aspx?logintype=P>

Student portal:

<https://connect.edsembli.com/AB/FSD/fvs/Portal/viewer/Login/Login.aspx?logintype=S>

If you need a password reset, please email our Data Facilitator, Mrs. Thorbjornsen, at thorbjornsent@fsd38.ab.ca to do the reset.



Academic Counselling for FDS High School Students

We congratulate Mz. Isberg who has taken on the role this year as the lead teacher for Foothills School Division's off-campus (work experience) program.

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Allison Fitzpatrick, Oilfields High School's academic counsellor, will support Foothills Digital School students. An email went home to our high school families two weeks ago. Please contact Ms. Fitzpatrick with academic counselling questions regarding course selection and graduation requirements at fitzpatricka@fsd38.ab.ca.

If you require further counselling, such as pacing plans for high school students or connection to other supports, such as Family School Liaison Counselling (FSLC) and Individual Learning Plans (ILP), please email Mr. Skeet (skeetb@fsd38.ab.ca) or Ms. Clark (clarks@fsd38.ab.ca), first, and we would be happy to have a conversation.

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.

Foothills School Division Child and Youth Well-Being

We invite you to read more about the Child and Youth Well-Being Family and Caregiver Series to support healthy development. These sessions are free and include topics such as:

- Understanding Vaping



[Child & Youth Well-Being
Family and Caregiver Series
2023-2024](#)

Child & Youth Well-Being Family and
Caregiver Series 2023-2024

www.foothillsschooldivision.ca



School Fees – PAST DUE

Notices for school fees for the 2023/2024 school year were sent out in September and are now PAST DUE. Payment can be made online via your Edsembli [portal](#), or we accept Cash and Cheque at the school office.

If you wish to apply to the Foothills School Division for Fee Assistance, you may go to [AP 506](#)

Important School Dates

Wednesday, November 8 and Thursday, November 9 – Parent Teacher Student Interviews from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM virtually on Microsoft Teams. A notice has gone home regarding registration for this event. Follow **this [link](#) to register**.

November 13 – Statutory Holiday. NO SCHOOL.

November 14 – 17 – Reading Break for students and staff. NO SCHOOL.

November 27 – System-wide Professional Learning and Lead Learning. NO SCHOOL.

December 1 – Semester 2 registration opens for new high school students currently not in FDS.

December 15 – Local/School-based Professional Learning Day. NO SCHOOL.

December 22 – Last day of school before Christmas Break. Please note that this is a **full day of school (no early dismissal)**

December 25 – January 5 – Christmas Break. NO SCHOOL.

December 25 – January 5 – Christmas Break. NO SCHOOL

January 8, 2024 – School resumes after Christmas Break.

Careers Section



My name is Edith Olson, and I am the chair of the School of Engineering Technologies at [Lethbridge College](#). I am excited to let you know about a newly revamped program that trains engineering technologists for in-demand, well-paid careers.

The program is called [Surveying and Geospatial Engineering Technology](#). It's a two-year diploma program that is both nationally and internationally accredited. Students in this program learn land surveying, engineering fundamentals and digital mapping on our Lethbridge campus – everything they need to know to get started on a rewarding career.

You can also sign up to be a [Student for a Day](#) to take part in our classes to see if this program is right for you, or [apply for this program now](#) and start on the road to your engineering technology career next fall.

NETWORKING AND DISCOVERY DAY
NOV. 3

With thanks,

Dr. Edith Olson
Chair, Engineering Technologies

FAQs

Do graduates of this program get well-paid jobs?

There is a high demand for graduates from this program, and the average starting salary is \$62,000.

What do the two years in the Surveying and Geospatial Engineering Technology program look like?

Using industry-standard equipment, you will learn theoretical and practical land survey skills that can lead you to summer employment between your first and second year, and to a career in land survey upon graduation. The focus in year two is on taking spatial data and presenting it in a visual format. You'll use the latest versions of computer software to create and interpret various maps both years.

Can I ladder my diploma into a degree?

Yes, we have formal transfer agreements with the following institutions British Columbia Institute of Technology, NAIT, Royal Roads University, the University of Alberta and the University of Lethbridge. You can learn more about these opportunities online.

What kind of career opportunities would I have?

Career opportunities include: Survey Assistant, Survey Party Chief, Survey Plan Checker, Geographic Information Systems Analyst, Geographic Information Systems Technologist, Land Planning and Mapping, Mapping Technologist and more. You may find yourself working outside part of the year and inside the rest, or always outside, or always in an office setting. It is even possible to work from home. It depends on the career you enter and the industry you work in.

What do you mean by "accredited," and why does it matter?

Being accredited by Technology Accreditation Canada (TAC) means a program meets TAC's high standards for engineering technologists. Once TAC standards are met, the program is also accredited internationally. Employers seek graduates from accredited programs to provide confidence to their clients that their engineering technologists have received appropriate training.

What is the time commitment?

This is an intense program delivered entirely in person, on campus, where students take six different courses in each of the four terms. Students have the option of taking the program over three years, reducing the number of courses taken in each term. Courses are normally scheduled Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Do I need a laptop?

Yes. You will need to purchase a laptop that is fully loaded with all the software required to complete the program from the Lethbridge College Bookstore at the start of the program. The estimated cost is around \$2,000. Due to licensing agreements, the software cannot be loaded onto laptops that are not purchased from the college. The laptop is warranted and fully supported for three years. On graduation, or withdrawal, the laptop is yours to keep. However, the software will expire.

How much does the program cost?

Tuition fees are different for domestic and international students, and [scholarships are available](#) to qualified students. For year one: Domestic tuition is currently \$5,538 and \$16,578 for international students. In addition, all students should budget about \$7,000 for fees, books, supplies and the laptop and software. For year two: Domestic tuition is currently \$6,453 and \$19,098 for international students. In addition, all students should budget about \$2,200 for books and supplies.

What are the admission requirements for this program?

New students are accepted into the Surveying and Geospatial Engineering Technology program in the Fall (September) term only. Next admission is September 2024. Seats are limited. All applicants must meet the general admission requirements for Lethbridge College programs and:

- a minimum grade of 50 percent in Grade 12 math (equivalent to Alberta's Math 30-1) or 60 percent in Grade 12 math (equivalent to Alberta's Math 30-2)
- Grade 11 physics or Grade 12 science

SchoolFinder Virtual Fall Fair

Wednesday
November 29
5-9pm ET



On **Wednesday, November 29th** from **5-9 PM ET**, your students can join us for the [SchoolFinder Virtual Fall Fair!](#)

Here are 3 reasons students should attend:

- Attend **live webinars** from colleges and universities in Canada and around the world

Foothills Digital School, November 2023 Connections Newsletter

- Get **answers to their questions** about scholarships and financial aid, programs, applications and deadlines, student life, and more
- Have the chance to **win prizes**

Register Now for Free!

And, we'd love if you could **share the event with your students!** You can find [**social media images and downloadables here.**](#)

We hope to see them at the fair!