



Welcome to October!

It is hard to believe that school's first month is over! First, thank you for your patience as we have processed several new registrations at Foothills Digital School. We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Tracy Thorbjornsen to our front office staff. She has taken over registrations and general inquiry questions. If you experience any technical difficulties, please contact **your teacher first**. This can help to solve your technical issues quicker.

We would also like to welcome two new members to our team:

Ms. Adryann Newman – Ms. Newman works with our Grade 1-3 students in mathematical numeracy. She is also the Foods 10 teacher and will be teaching that class. Ms. Newman joins us from Dr. Morris Gibson School and also teaches at Ecole Joe Clark School in High River.

Mr. Paul Kiefer – Mr. Kiefer joins us after returning from the United States. He will teach all our English Language Arts courses (10-1, 10-2, 20-1, 20-2, 30-1, 30-2).

We welcome both of these fine teachers to the FDS team! We would also like to welcome back our stellar teachers:

Ms. Kristine Hinton – Grade 1-3 – Literacy, Science, and Social Studies.

Ms. Lyndsi Irwin – Grade 4-6 – Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

Mrs. Jennifer Shaw-Dearden – Grade 7-9 Humanities, Wellness. Mrs. Shaw-Dearden will also take over high school leadership and art classes in Semester 2.

Mr. David Tait – Grade 7-9 Math and Science, wellness, and Math 15.

Mrs. Carolyn Paquette – Science 10, Science 24, Biology 20, Biology 30, Chemistry 20, Chemistry 30, Foods 20/30

Mr. Ryan Palmer – Social Studies 10-1, 10-2, 20-1, 20-2, 30-1, 30-2, Business 30

Mr. Corey Cowper – Math 20-1, Math 20-2, Math 20-3, Science 14, Business 20, Personal Psychology 20, Abnormal Psychology, Experimental Psychology.

Mr. Brett Eustergerling – Math 10C, Math 10-3, Math 30-1, Math 30-2, Physics 20, Physics 30, Science 20, Science 30

We look forward to a great year with us as FDS enters our third year. As we are still a developing school, please note that if you are returning to us, you may see some changes as we respond to our community needs and programming.

Communication Plan

Please take a few moments to read about our progress reporting communication plan. Dates for parent conferences and learner profiles (report cards) are stated in this plan. You may find it at [Foothills Digital School Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting of Student Learning 2023-2024 \(foothillsschooldivision.ca\)](https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca)

Our goal for this year is to send you a monthly newsletter to keep you updated. We will also send other newsletters throughout the month that deal with more specific subjects so that you are aware of important information and dates within our school.

We invite you to read on and ensure you have the information necessary to make your FDS experience enjoyable. Let's have a great year!

Sincerely,

Sarah Clark and Brad Skeet, Foothills Digital School Admin Team



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 \(Newsletter format\) \(foothillsschooldivision.ca\)](https://www.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. You will receive an email from Foothills School Division each month asking you to check your child's progress in Edsembli. **Instead, we ask you to 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. **We anticipate parent Edsembli ConnectEd accounts available by the end of day on Monday, October 2.**

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. Krista Tenchin, who can connect with you and determine the next steps for support.

Important School Dates

Monday, October 9 – Thanksgiving Holiday. SCHOOL IS CLOSED.

Friday, October 20 – Local/School-based Professional Learning Day. NO SCHOOL.

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 25 – January 5 – Christmas Break. NO SCHOOL.