

# OILFIELDS HIGH SCHOOL

ROOTED IN COMMUNITY. GROWING FUTURES.



## A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS EMPOWERED FOR LIFE

*Nestled in the town of Diamond Valley with the mountain range as a backdrop, Oilfields High School shares its culture of creativity with 450 students at the Grade 7-12 school.*

Samantha (left), Grade 9, and Alexis, Grade 10, were excited to show one of several microgreen growing centres at the school. It's one of many examples of Oilfield High School's unique approach to collaborative learning.

"Our smaller class sizes leave room for so many good things," said Alexis. "We have lots of options here and they are nearly always full. Our teachers are really supportive in helping students match their interests in option classes, and our Academic & Career Advisor and all teachers make sure we're prepared with everything we will need for our post-secondary plans."

Over 30 options are offered at Oilfields, engaging students in an eclectic range of topics and opening pathways to success. Along with Oilfield's strong academic courses, the number of classes available for students is unusual for a smaller school. From photography and animation to a full RAP program and Agriculture courses.

"Students spend a lot of time looking at career choices, and then they have class options and other activities that help them pursue their goals at their own pace," said Samantha.

"There are opportunities to be involved in a lot of different things. I'm part of Student Council, and am also on the Basketball and Track & Field teams, and we do pretty good here. I'm also involved with our Indigenous activities, which involves art, a drumming circle and guest speakers."



## **SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

Along with rugby, badminton and competitive sports, the school launched a hockey program a few years ago at the community arena. The Foods and Textiles classes are always a popular spot for students, with Textile teacher Danica Holt (right) setting a creative and welcoming classroom setting.



“We grow mushrooms and tomatoes, and plant flowers while we learn about soil conservation and other important topics, ” said Samantha. “The same teacher also runs our Outdoor Ed program and the class is outside snowshoeing right now. They also do cross-country skiing – they practise in the school field and then to up into the mountains on the hiking trails. There’s a full rack of equipment and gear here for students who don’t have their own.”



For Alexis, it’s the Drama classes and theatre options that spark her interest. From learning hair and makeup to writing and performing their own scripts, the school’s fine arts area is bustling.

“Right now, I’m directing a play and acting in two others. Everyday for an hour and 25 minutes I’m in this space. I also have a technical theatre option and am learning about lights and sound. I love every minute of it!”



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**VERTICAL FARM INITIATIVE  
YIELDING A HARVEST OF  
STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES**

*Cindy Watts is a CTS instructor at Oilfields High School and supports the progress of the vertical farm. Her enthusiasm to share knowledge of where food comes from has led to amazing opportunities for students throughout the school.*

Samantha is engaged in the vertical farm. The school's unique collaboration led to the facility on the school grounds, and Samantha works at the concession where the microgreens from the vertical farm are blended into smoothies and added to other food to nourish the whole school community. A special Indigenous garden is also part of the vertical farm area, which brings Samantha's interest in Indigenous learning full circle.

"We have fun learning at this school and our teachers are phenomenal. They are very involved with their students and make class interesting."

Oilfields High received a Dual Credit grant to help establish the vertical farm project. The school studied many details for making the vertical farm a success, from facility planning and plant production to food security and marketing. Now some local restaurants buy their microgreens and a local grocery store purchases microgreens each week.

The project is an example of how the community contributes to student success. From grants and to donations the project, and purchasing of the microgreens, it is clear that this is a community effort.

"The most important thing is that the students learn a lot. Everything inside is organic and it's completely off grid. We share our incredibly healthy microgreens for some of the concession food, and sometimes we provide edible flowers for their desserts. Everyone is learning about what they can plant and grow to help the larger community."

The vertical farm yield a harvest of opportunities for students and the entire community! It is one of many activities at Oilfields High School that provides every student with a variety of experiences and knowledge to open pathways to a successful career.

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### COURSE & PROGRAM OPTIONS

#### CAREER EXPLORATION & REAL-WORLD LEARNING

- Vertical Farming
- Green Certificate (Agriculture)
- RAP, Dual Credit, Work Experience

#### ARTS, TECHNOLOGY & SKILLS

- Art, Drama, Band, Music
- Communications Technology, Digital Media, Photography, Filmmaking
- Foods, Textiles, Shop (Woods & Metals), Business & Marketing

#### ACADEMICS, WELLNESS & OUTDOOR LEARNING

- Core Academics (ELA, Math incl. Calculus, Sciences, Social Studies)
- Outdoor Education & Environmental Studies
- Sports Medicine, Sports Leadership, Physical Education
- Languages: Spanish, French

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511 3rd Street SW Diamond Valley, AB  
(403) 938-4973  
Email: [oilfields@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:oilfields@fsd38.ab.ca)

