



August 29, 2024

Hello, FSD,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! We at Foothills School Division are excited to partner with you to place education at the centre of a flourishing community.

Before we welcome all students on Tuesday, September 3, we want to draw your attention to a few items to set your year up for success:

- A welcome message from our Board of Trustees
- A procedure change regarding student mobile devices
- The 2024-2025 Instructional Calendar
- Do you have the FSD App?

Thank you for taking the time to read this information update. If you have wonders or concerns, please connect with your child's school.



Advancing A Place for All

As the relaxed days of summer draw to a close and we embrace the excitement of a new school year, it is the perfect time to pause and reflect on the role of education—how it is essential in shaping both the minds of individuals and the future of our communities.

A cornerstone of personal and societal development, education empowers individuals to think critically, solve problems, and make informed decisions. It fosters innovation, drives economic growth, and helps reduce inequalities. Through education, we cultivate the values of empathy, respect, and responsibility, all of which are essential for building a peaceful and prosperous society.

Trustees, staff, students and their families are all essential 'partners in education'. As a Board, we embrace this role by making informed decisions to advance Foothills School Division (FSD) purpose of 'placing education at the centre of a flourishing community'; something we believe can only be achieved by uncovering and developing the unique gifts and abilities of every learner entrusted to our care... and celebrating them!

Every learner who joins FSD is given the opportunity to build a foundation for lifelong learning and personal growth. Our systems-thinking approach, which has helped us develop a unified vision for success, is positively driving system change.

At Foothills School Division our priorities, including wellness and well-being, learning that transfers, numeracy, literacy, as well as innovation and design, are mapped out in the 2024-2029 Education Plan – ***[A Vision that Transfers](#)***. Success in these areas depends on advancing teaching, learning, and leadership within a supportive framework, all while fostering an environment that is resolutely, *A Place for All*.

As we begin this new academic year, let us remember that education is the foundation for both knowledge and a strong sense of belonging within our community. Over the coming weeks, we will explore how FSD is '*Advancing A Place for All*' and will set the tone for the year ahead, reinforcing our commitment to ensuring every learner feels valued and supported. As a Board, we invite you to join us in this vital work, working together to create a future where every learner can flourish!

Yours in learning,

Foothills School Division
Board of Trustees & Superintendent of Schools



**USE OF MOBILE DEVICES
IN SCHOOLS**

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

Learn more with Administrative Procedure 350 - Respect for All
In accordance with Ministerial Order #014/2024

foothillsschooldivision.ca



NEW: Mobile and Smart Device Use in Schools

As part of our continuous effort to foster safe, welcoming, caring, and respectful learning environments, we have updated our Student Code of Conduct ([AP 350 – Respect for All](#)) to include the implementation of a new protocol regarding the use of mobile and smart devices in schools. This change takes effect on September 1, 2024, and follows the [Ministerial Order #014/2024 – Standards for the Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools](#), which aims to minimize distractions and enhance learning environments for all students.

The main points of the new procedure are:

- Students in grades ECS (Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten) to grade 6 are not allowed to use personal mobile devices during instructional or non-instructional time. This includes recess, lunch, and before and after school. If students have mobile devices with them, they must be powered off and stored out of view.
- Students in grades 7 to 12 are not allowed to use personal mobile devices during instructional time, unless the teacher gives explicit permission for their use as part of learning. If students have mobile devices with them, they must be powered off and stored according to the school's protocol for device storage. Students may use mobile devices during non-instructional time, such as school-designated breaks from instructional time and lunch.
- Students are not allowed to access social media on school networks or on school devices at any time.
- Parents who need to urgently contact their child during instructional time can call the school office. Students who need to contact their parents for an urgent matter during instructional time should talk to their teacher and use a phone designated for student use in the school office.
- The policy applies to all mobile and smart devices, such as cell phones, tablets, laptops, or smartwatches, that can be used to communicate with or access the internet. Associated accessories, such as earbuds, headphones, and mics are also to be put away, unless used for educational purposes as directed by a teacher.
- The policy applies to all spaces on school premises, as well as when students are representing the school or school division on field trips or other school related activities.
- The policy includes a progressive discipline framework for enforcing the use of mobile devices in schools, which may include reminders, warnings, confiscation, loss of privileges, parent contact, or other consequences depending on the frequency and severity of the infraction.

We believe that this update to the Student Code of Conduct will help us create a more welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment for all students, where they can focus on their academic and personal growth without unnecessary distractions.

We appreciate your support and cooperation in implementing this policy and ask that you review it with your child(ren) and discuss the expectations and consequences. You can find the full policy and the rationale behind it on our division website. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school.

Thank you for your partnership in education.

FAQs

My child has a medical device or requires assistive technology to learn. How does this change impact them?

- Exemptions for mobile and smart device use for students during instructional time include only:
 - Students who require the use of these devices for documented medical purposes.
 - School staff and administration will work with students and families to ensure students with complex needs have access to appropriate, recommended assistive technology that is compliant with expectations as outlined by Alberta Education.
- Families can work with school staff and administration to assure requisite exemptions are in place.

How can I leave an urgent message for my child?

We understand the perception of disconnection can be unnerving. As always, families can contact the school office to relay a message to a student.

What if there is an emergency?

Families will be notified of emergent situations via personal phone call or school messenger.

Students needing to contact a caregiver regarding an urgent matter during instructional time should speak with their teacher in order to use a phone designated for student use in the school offices.

What consequences are in place?

- In accordance with the progressive discipline process within AP 350 including:
 - Request to power off
 - Apprehension of device until the end of instructional time
 - Notice to parents and school administration
 - Loss of mobile device privileges
 - To learn more, visit our website and search Mobile Use in Schools
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| 2024-2025 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>AUGUST 2024</p> <p>Schools are closed on Independence Day.</p> <p>2024-2025 Learning Plan</p> <p>Aug 27 - Professional Day</p> <p>Aug 28-29 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Aug 30 - Student Transition Day</p> <p>Sept 1 - Labour Day</p> <p>Sept 2 - Professional Day</p> <p>Sept 30 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 1 - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation</p> <p>Oct 14 - Thanksgiving</p> <p>Nov 1 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Nov 12 - Full Break</p> <p>Nov 18-20 - Learner Conference</p> <p>Oct 13 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 23-25 - School Break</p> <p>Nov 10 - November 2 days</p> <p>Nov 19 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Nov 20 - Learner Profiles</p> <p>Nov 21 - School Closed</p> <p>Nov 22 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Nov 23-24 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Nov 25-26 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Nov 27-28 - Learner Conference</p> <p>Nov 29 - School Holiday</p> <p>Nov 30 - School Break</p> <p>Dec 1 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 2 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 3 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 4 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 5 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 6 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 7 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 8 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 9 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 10 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 11 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 12 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 13 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 14 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 15 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 16 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 17 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 18 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 19 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 20 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 21 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 22 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 23 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 24 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 25 - Christmas Day</p> <p>Dec 26 - Boxing Day</p> <p>Dec 27 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 28 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 29 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Dec 30 - School Holiday</p> <p>Dec 31 - Non-Instructional Day</p> | <p>SEPTEMBER 2024</p> <p>Sept 2 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 3 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 4 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 5 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 6 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 7 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 8 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 9 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 10 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 11 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 12 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 13 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 14 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 15 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 16 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 17 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 18 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 19 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 20 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 21 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 22 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 23 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 24 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 25 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 26 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 27 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 28 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Sept 29 - School Holiday</p> <p>Sept 30 - Non-Instructional Day</p> | <p>OCTOBER 2024</p> <p>Oct 1 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 2 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 3 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 4 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 5 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 6 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 7 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 8 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 9 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 10 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 11 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 12 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 13 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 14 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 15 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 16 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 17 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 18 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 19 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 20 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 21 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 22 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 23 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 24 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 25 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 26 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 27 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 28 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 29 - Non-Instructional Day</p> <p>Oct 30 - School Holiday</p> <p>Oct 31 - Non-Instructional Day</p> |
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2024-2025 Instructional Calendar

Save the dates! Our printable 2024-2025 Instructional Calendar highlights key dates to help you plan the year ahead, including:

- Dates when schools are closed, and team members are unavailable.
 - Fall, Winter, and Spring
 - February Break
 - Weekends & Summer holidays
- Dates to connect with your child’s teacher at Learner Conferences and receive an update of your child’s learning during Learner Profiles
- Non-instructional days where team members will be engaging in professional learning. Note that there are 2 dates where the non-instructional days applies only to Elementary and Junior High schools.
- Meeting dates of our Board of Trustees

[Click here to download the Instructional Calendar](#)

System of Reporting Update

In response to feedback received from parents, students and teachers, our refined System of Reporting adds a common 5-point scale from grades K through 8, more strength-based language, and clearer communication of literacy-based outcomes.

[View our System of Reporting parent guide at our website.](#)

Foothills SCHOOL DIVISION PARENT GUIDE TO ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

September 2024

UNDERSTANDING ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

Foothills School Division focuses on research-based assessment practices to enhance student learning. Assessments help teachers adjust instruction, monitor progress, and provide feedback. The main goal is to improve student learning, with parental involvement being crucial for student success through collaboration with educators.

WHAT IS ASSESSMENT?

Assessment involves collecting information on a student's knowledge and skills related to learning objectives. Assessments are criterion-referenced, comparing student performance to set learner outcomes in the Alberta Programs of Study and Curriculum.

MULTIPLE MODES OF ASSESSMENT

Educators gather diverse evidence beyond essays and exams, including observing skills, discussions, and product-based evidence to assess student learning through triangulating evidence.

WHAT IS REPORTING?

Reporting in the FSD System involves daily monitoring of student progress against learning outcomes, documenting evidence to inform parents about strengths, growth areas, and next steps in learning.

REPORTING PERIODS AND LEARNER PROFILES

The FSD annual reporting schedule for kindergarten to grade 12 includes:

- Two reporting periods
- Two Learner Conferences
- Two Learner Profiles

edsembli

Edsembli Family Portal

Edsembli Family Portal is a web-based platform, designed to enhance your involvement in your child's education, that is convenient to view from your mobile device as well as any browser on a personal computer.

The portal provides you with convenient access to important information pertaining to your child's learning, all in one place.

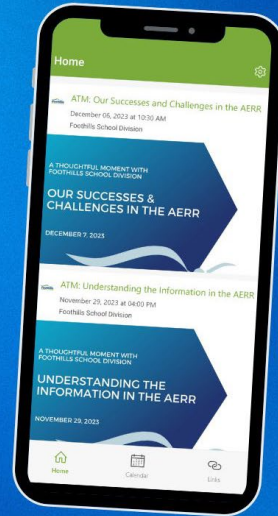
Key Features:

- Gradebook: View your child's grades and academic progress.
- Attendance: Keep track of your child's attendance.
- Contact Info: Confirm your contact details.
- Learner Profiles: Access Learner Profiles of each child promptly.
- Sign Forms: Authorize your child's participation in activities such as field trips.
- Pay Fees: Conveniently pay school fees, yearbook fees, or field trip fees.
- No App to Download: A single link accessible from all devices that can be bookmarked or added to the home screen of your mobile device for easy access.

Please bookmark this link (or add to home screen) to quickly access your Edsembli

account: <https://sis.edsembli.com/WebAdmin/AB/FSD/UI/Account/SignIn>

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE FSD APP



foothillsschooldivision.ca



Stay connected with the FSD App

Be the first to know, before it hits social media. With access to school calendars, contact information, news, and real-time updates, the FSD App is your go-to source to stay connected with your child's school website.

How to Get Started:

1. **Download the App:** Available for free on both [iOS](#) and [Android](#) platforms. (search for Foothills School Division and look for our logo)
2. **Select Your School(s):** Choose the schools your children attend to receive specific information and updates.

We continue our commitment to fostering a connected and informed school community. With the Foothills School Division App (Powered by SchoolBundle), we are bringing our community closer together, one tap at a time.

This email was sent in compliance with Canada's Anti-Spam legislation. You are subscribed to receive commercial electronic messages from your child's school and Foothills School Division. These include topics such as picture days, field trip costs, school fees and more. You may withdraw this consent at any time by clicking [Unsubscribe](#).

Please note, if you select Unsubscribe to All, you will no longer continue to receive messages of a non-commercial nature, such as absence or Emergency notifications.

Please contact your school to update your phone number, email address, additional contact information and/or to update your Students Attendance by replying directly to this message.

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