



2300 – 19 Avenue S.E.
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June 25, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the end of another successful school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared together. The past year has been a remarkable experience of growth, collaboration, and learning. I have had the privilege of witnessing the resilience and dedication of our students, the commitment and expertise of our teachers, and the strong sense of community that permeates throughout our school. Together, we have accomplished so much, and I am truly proud of the progress we have made.

In preparation for the upcoming year, I am excited to share some important information with you. Crestwood School has committed to developing and implementing a STEM Centered Learning program for the Medicine Hat Public School Division. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Through this approach, students learn core subject concepts and skills while exploring these subjects in a hands-on and engaging way. Our STEM program will enhance academic performance, develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and equip students with the knowledge they need to succeed in the modern workforce.

We believe that integrating STEM into our whole-school approach to learning is the most beneficial way for students to thrive. Rather than segregating STEM education into specific streams or academies, we offer STEM-centered learning to all students. Our goal is to give every student the opportunity to learn about technology and embrace their inner innovator. We want our students to see themselves as capable of changing the world and actively inventing solutions to the problems they care about.

Our dedicated staff at Crestwood School encourage students to think like scientists. We will help them develop the skills and attitudes required for rigorous scientific thinking. Through a focus on hands-on experiences and process-oriented learning, we support all students as they engage with the Alberta curriculum. We also explore Design Thinking Frameworks, which promote creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. By incorporating field studies, expert connections, robotics, coding, and other STEM activities, we encourage students to approach learning through problem-solving, innovation, creativity, and curiosity.

Learning through STEM is not limited to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics alone. It teaches students to apply their STEM lens to all other areas of learning, including math, English language arts, social studies, physical education, and wellness. We are committed to embedding Indigenous thinking in our STEM program. By consulting with experts in our community and applying an FNMI (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) lens, we will integrate higher-level concepts and include Indigenous teachings, arts, dance, and song. Our approach will be anchored in the Circle of Courage, connecting generosity, belonging, mastery, and independence to learning both in and through STEM.

We are excited to inspire collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity and look forward to partnerships with family and community members as we grow this program.

As we are getting ready for the summer holidays, I want to provide you with valuable information so that you are prepared for the fall.

Staffing Update:

- Congratulations to Ms. Darcy Nielson on her retirement. Mrs. Nielson has served the students of Crestwood School for 15 years, inspiring the love of music for all. Mrs. Nielson looks forward to spending time with her family and we hope to see her in our hallways as a guest teacher from time to time.
- We wish Mrs. Tricia Macphail all the best in her new journey as vice principal of George Davison School and know her absence will be missed in the building.
- Miss Kaylie Klaiber has accepted a fulltime physical education position at Irvine School. We wish her well in this new experience.
- Thank you to Mr. Elias West for all the support in our grade one program. We wish him all the best in the upcoming year.
- Congratulations to Ms. Rebecca Windjack who will serve as the Classroom Support teacher. Ms. Windjack's inclusive mindset and instructional skillset as a literacy and numeracy interventionist will be instrumental in supporting the students.
- We are excited to welcome Ms. Vanessa Yamazaki to our school. Ms. Yamazaki is a student-centered educator with years of experience as a teacher lead transferring Glendale Science and Technology School in Red Deer. Her relational and collaborative nature with the ability to make cross curricular connections including meaningful Indigenous connections will serve our students well.
- Homeroom Assignments:
 - ELP: Mrs. Cruz
 - Kindergarten: Mrs. Martin with Mrs. Bolton as the Play & Learn ECE
 - Grade 1: Miss Mumma & Miss Churla
 - Grade 2: Miss Barton & Mrs. Hansen
 - Grade 3: Mrs. McLane & Mrs. Smid
 - Grade 4: Mrs. Koenig & Mrs. Thompson
 - Grade 5: Mrs. Glasgo, Mrs. Johnson & Ms. Yamazaki
 - Grade 6: Mrs. Butchart & Mr. Sandau
 - Physical Education Specialist: Mrs. Thome
- Mrs. Michele Frey will continue as the Crestwood School Vice Principal.
- Ms. Mary Tulip will continue as the Crestwood School FSLW (Family School Liaison Worker) with Mrs. Jessica Bertelsen as the HUG Success Coach.

Summer Office Hours: Our office will be open to support the transition into the summer from July 4 - 6 from 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:30. If you have any questions or need to pick up any forgotten supplies, please contact Mrs. Bos during this time. We will reopen to start the fall on August 28th, 2023. We anticipate a busy start up so please watch your email as all valuable information will be shared during this week.

ELP: Students in ELP will be contacted by Mrs. Cruz to arrange a family meeting during the week of September 4-8. Students will not attend the program during this week. The first day of school for ELP students is on September 11.

Kindergarten & Play & Learn: All students will begin program on Tuesday, September 5 during their scheduled program times.

- Morning Kindergarten: 8:53-11:33
- Afternoon Kindergarten only: 12:25-3:05

- Play & Learn with afternoon kindergarten: 8:53-3:05

Bell Times: The first day of school for students will be **Tuesday, September 4th, 2023**. Our school day begins at 8:53 and ends at 3:05. Students will have a 15-minute morning recess and a forty-minute lunch break. Our school doors will be unlocked at 8:45 for students with supervision available in the classrooms. Please note that we do not have supervision prior to this time. If you require an earlier drop off, please register with the Before & After School care through the YMCA to ensure your child is safely supervised.

Class Lists, Meet the Teacher Night & STEM Bottle Drive: To help alleviate first day jitters, class lists will be finalized Thursday, August 31, 2023. You can anticipate an email from your child's homeroom teacher during the afternoon of August 25th, welcoming them to their class and inviting the family to attend a Meet the Teacher event later that evening. Families and students are invited into the school to see their classroom before the first day. Save your bottles throughout the summer and bring them along to donate to our STEM program. All proceeds will be used to support hands on learning resources.

Join us to help kick off a successful school year.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

August 31 from 5:30-6:30pm

STEM Bottle Drive, Classroom Sneak Peaks & Meet the Teacher

School Supply List: The School Supply lists for the 2023-2024 school year are located on our website at <https://crestwood.mhpsd.ca/school-supplies>. For your convenience, our school continues to partner with School Start online. This company supplies the buyer with an online order form and competitively priced school supplies that will be delivered directly to your home. The order forms are tailored to each grade level with lists that are created directly by your child's teacher. Please check this out to be sure your supplies are ready for the start of school. In addition to these supplies, students in grade 3 – 6 are required to bring their own Chromebook or an equivalent technology device to school.

School Council Support: Crestwood School has an active school council with many opportunities to support activities in the classroom. As a council, they rely on family volunteers to support our monthly bingo events. These events serve as the main fundraiser for the school and allow the opportunity for our students to attend educational activities offsite. A couple of examples of the things the school council has supported include local and provincial field trips, resources for literacy and numeracy and special events within the school. Please contact Shar Anderson at 403 866 6675 if you are able to help with any of the summer and early fall Bingo's. Our first school Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 12th at 9:15 am. We hope you are able to attend.

Communication: Our main forms of communication are through Edsby and the school webpage. Please check these regularly in August to ensure that you have the most up-to-date information. You will receive a start of the year email during the week of August 28-31 with important start-up information.

I hope this information is useful to you as you head into a well-deserved summer break. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

On behalf of the staff, I want to wish you a happy and safe summer holiday. I hope your child has had a successful year and I know that staff are looking forward to working with your family in the fall. Have a great summer.

Yours truly,

Richelle Thomas
Principal