

September 2019



Principal's Message

Welcome to SouthPointe School! We had another smooth start to the school year. Students are settling into their new classes nicely.

We are looking forward to making this year a great success and we invite all parents and students to join us on Wednesday, September 18 from 6:00-7:30 pm for our Meet the Staff evening. Parents and students can go directly to the classrooms to meet your child's teacher/s. An information session will be available for those that are interested in learning more about Google Classroom and PowerSchool during Meet the Staff. This session will be held in the Science Lab from 6:00-6:45 pm with Mrs. O'Neill.

Please continue to check our [website](#) on a regular basis for updated school information as well as your child's teacher's Staff Directory page located under the About tab to find out about specific class news and events.

You may have noticed that three modular classrooms have been delivered to SouthPointe School. The next step in the process is to have the groundwork and the pilings completed so that the modular classrooms can be moved into place. After this phase has been completed interior work needs to commence to ensure that these modular are operational. More information will be communicated through our website as dates become finalized and work begins.

Construction is underway to extend SouthPointe Boulevard to 94 Street. When this road opens, it will allow for easier access for our families that live in Sienna.

We are looking forward to a successful school year. We hope to have an opportunity to meet everyone at the Meet the Staff evening. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher(s) or administration.

Carol Brown, Principal

Parent Waiting Area



Picking up your child? Please wait at your child's designated doors as this is where they will exit the building at the end of the day. If you need to pick up your child earlier for an appointment etc., we would be happy to call them to the office for you. Thank you for continuing to sign in at the office if you are volunteering at the school.

Parking

Parents, when dropping off or picking up your children, please use the parent drop off located at the front of the school on Allard Way. Please do not stop or park in the bus lanes or in the staff parking lot at any time during school hours. As well, we also ask parents not to park in the accessible stalls at the front of the school.



Thank you for modeling respect and safety in this manner.

Entrance and Exit Door Info

To help our students and their families, we have labeled the exterior doors of the school with pink signs to indicate the entrances and exits for each grade. Please pick up and drop off your children at their designated doors. Designated doors are as follows:

- ❖ Kindergarten: The main doors (West) located at the front of the school (Main Entrance Doors).
- ❖ Grades 1 & 2: The doors located on the far South West of the school at the parent drop off loop.
- ❖ Grades 3 & 4: The North East doors located at the back of the school (left of the overhead door).
- ❖ Grades 5 & 6: The South doors located at the back of the school (right of the overhead door).
- ❖ Grades 7 & 8: The North doors located by the bus drop off lanes.

Late Arrivals

If your child arrives after 8:15 a.m., please report to the front office (located on Allard Way) to sign in, as all doors will be locked after this time.

Bell Schedule

School starts: 8:15 a.m.
Lunch: 11:12 - 11:52 a.m.
Regular school ends: 2:51 p.m. (Early Out school ends: 1:51 p.m.)



Six (6) Day Rotation and Staggered Lunch

This year at SouthPointe School, all of our students will be on a rotating six-day schedule. Under the new schedule, each day will be assigned a number rather than a day of the week. The cycle day is noted on the right hand side under calendar on our [website](#).

To accommodate the number of students wishing to play on our new playground, we have a staggered our lunch hour schedule. Students in grades 4-6 will eat their lunch from 11:12-11:32 a.m. and then go outside for lunch recess. Grades K-3 students will go outside for lunch recess from 11:-12-11:32 a.m. and then come inside to eat lunch. Our Grade 7 & 8 students will eat their lunch from 11:12-11:32 a.m. and then have the option to go outside from 11:32-11:52 a.m. or they may remain inside for the entire lunch break.

Absence Check

Parents/guardians are asked to inform the school if their child is going to be absent. Notification may be sent by telephone at (780) 998-2747, reported through the school website (under the Contact tab and then Attendance in the drop down box) or by a note in the agenda to the homeroom teacher. If a child is absent, and no reason has been received in the office by 9:00 a.m., the office staff will attempt to contact parents/guardians.

2019-20 Staff List

Certificated Staff:

ECS	Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Parker
Grade 1	Mrs. Harburn, Mrs. Jefferis, Ms. Munsterman
Grade 2	Mrs. de Jong, Mrs. Johnson
Grade 3	Miss Gusniowsky, Ms. Oram
Grade 4	Mrs. Booker, Miss Melnyk
Grade 5	Mrs. Bossert, Mr. Epp
Grade 6	Mrs. Molyneaux, Mr. Percy
Grade 7 & 8	Mrs. Gillam, Ms. McHugh, Ms. McKee, Mr. Nyznyk, Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. Percy
Music	Mrs. Zapesocki
Principal	Miss Brown
Assistant Principal	Mrs. Kropp
Counselling	Ms. McHugh



Classified Staff

Educational Assistants:

ECS	Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Zielinski, Ms. Gara
Grade 1	Mrs. Hamilton
Grade 2	Mrs. Dykstra, Ms. Gaudet, Mrs. Jimmy, Mrs. Kenny
Grade 3	Mrs. Langille
Grade 4	Mrs. Hammel
Grade 5	Mrs. Pitters
Grade 6	Mrs. Edwards
Grade 7 & 8	Mrs. O'Hara, Miss Nice, Mrs. Scott
Library Assistant	Mrs. Adams
Business Manager	Mrs. Warwa
Secretary	Mrs. Barker

Meet the SouthPointe School Staff

The staff at SouthPointe School would like to invite you to **Meet the Staff** on Wednesday, September 18 at 6:00 p.m. Parents/Guardians and students can go directly to the classrooms to meet your child's teacher(s) or to room 166 to learn about Google Classroom and PowerSchool Parent Portal.

Update Your PowerSchool Information

The PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form is now available online, which replaces the paper form sent to families each fall. Families can use the form to access and update their child's information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and any medical information. Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child. All SouthPointe School families are asked to review their child's PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form by Sept. 20, 2019.



For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form and opt-out options contact the school directly.

NOTE: Parents or guardians who've opted out of having the Correction and Verification Form visible on PowerSchool, will receive a paper version to review from the school.

SouthPointe is a "Nut Aware" School

There has been a marked increase in the number of children in schools across Canada that have life-threatening allergies, SouthPointe School included. Education and awareness are key to keeping children with potentially life-threatening allergies safe and to this end, SouthPointe School is a "Nut Aware" school. At SouthPointe School we are committed to provide a safe environment that is inclusive for all children. In common with most other schools, we have several children with peanut and tree nut (hazelnuts, pistachios, almonds, etc.) allergies. We do not describe the school as being "Nut Free" because we can't guarantee that students or adults have not brought nuts, or traces of nuts, into the building. However, we ask that parents please be aware of what you are sending with your children to school, and when possible, avoid sending items that contain peanuts or tree nuts.

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. Approximately 1-2% of Canadians live with the risk of an anaphylactic reaction. Food allergies are the most common cause of anaphylaxis. The most common food allergens are peanuts, tree nuts, seafood, egg and milk products. Anaphylaxis can affect multiple body systems. This can range from skin inflammation to anaphylactic shock, which is an explosive over-reaction of the body's immune system. This can be characterized by swelling, difficulty breathing, abdominal cramps, circulatory collapse, coma and, ultimately, death. Source: Anaphylaxis Canada

Students with life threatening conditions have a medical emergency plan outlining their condition and the safety procedures required of school staff members in the event of an emergency. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school at 780-998-2747.

EIPS Launches New Cellphone Policy

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of Trustees has approved a new policy regarding cellphones. [Policy 24, Personal Communication Devices](#) outlines how students and staff use cellphones and personal devices within EIPS schools. The goal: To ensure all students use technology responsibly and develop skills in digital citizenship.

To develop the policy, the Board undertook a comprehensive review of the Division's existing procedures and practices used to oversee the use of student-owned technology in the classroom. It also conducted extensive public consultations with students, teachers, school administrators and EIPS families. Overall, the feedback was invaluable and provided a clear picture of how to best manage the use of these devices.

Policy highlights:



Students in kindergarten to Grade 6: No access to cellphones or personal devices during the school day, including during breaks and the lunch hour—the only exception, students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need.

Students in grades 7 to 9: No access to cellphones or personal devices during class time—the only exceptions, students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need, and when given permission by a teacher for a specific educational task or purpose. Students can access their device during identified break periods, including between classes and the lunch hour.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure learning takes place in an environment with fewer distractions. When students can focus on what's taking place in the classroom and can interact directly with the teacher and other students, they're in a better position to grow and succeed.

Noon Hour Supervision Fee

Supervision is provided for the entire noon hour for students that stay at school for lunch. There is a fee for this service and will be included on your child's upcoming school fees. If your child will be going home **every day** for the **entire lunch hour from 11:12-11:52 am**, you can email the school at general.sps@eips.ca indicating your child(ren)'s name(s), grade(s) and homeroom(s) before Tuesday, September 10 and this fee will be removed for the upcoming year.

Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2019-20 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by the end of September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply log in to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay them online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution.

Don't forget to log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of certain school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more. Additionally, junior high fees can change as courses are added and deleted.

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your student fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2019.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees. Alternatively, contact Joanne Warwa at SouthPointe School at 780-998-2747.

Improving Home-School Communication

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has developed a how-to guide entitled, "Communication Protocol for Schools." Topics include appropriate channels to use, standard formats and structures, timing and sequencing for regular and ongoing home-school communication, and ways to bring forward questions or concerns. The manual also offers useful tools and resources schools and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, email communication and various social media efforts.

[Communication Protocol for Schools](#)



Quick Facts: EIPS buses are all equipped with video surveillance

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? The video surveillance and equipment helps:

- ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and
- deter from destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP). The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct, and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP Co-ordinator at [780-464-3477](tel:780-464-3477).

Fundraising Association and School Council Update

Welcome back to school everyone! We are excited for a new school year and would love some new faces in our organization. We will be having our AGM for FASS and School Council on September 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons. Along with news of our upcoming year, we will be electing new executive boards. Please find the positions and descriptions below.

Fundraising Association for SouthPointe School

President

- Main spokesperson for the association; attends and chairs all meetings of the association
- Communicates with members via school newsletter write-ups and emails.
- Has signing authority
- Works collaboratively with the SouthPointe School Council co-chairs and the school administration

Vice President

- Attends all meetings of the association and acts as chair when the president is absent
- Assists the president and assumes duties as required (ie. chairing a committee)

Treasurer

- Attends all meetings of the association
- Has signing authority
- Ensures the association's financial records are up to date (accounting for all deposits, receipts and expenditures)
- Pays invoices approved by the association
- Prepares monthly financial reports for the association meetings
- Prepares all annual financial reports (for AGM, Corporate Registry and AGLC)

Secretary

- Attends all meetings of the association
- Records minutes of meetings and posts them on the school website
- Distributes correspondence to members (emails)
- Keeps the Register of Members up to date using the Association Membership Form

All positions need to be filled for the FASS board in order to stay incorporated. All fundraising money goes through FASS and not School Council.

School Council Co-chairs

It is expected that the school co-chairs will be a parent of a student attending the school. The co-chairs should be able to work collaboratively and know how to organize both programs and people. They should actively encourage others to become engaged in meaningful ways.

Typical chairing duties include:

- Chair all meetings of the school council
- Coordinate with the principal to establish meeting agendas
- Ensure that the operating procedures are current and followed
- Be the official spokesperson of the school council
- Ensure there is regular communication with the whole school community
- Stay informed about the school board policy that impacts school council
- Comply with the School Councils Regulation by providing the school board with an annual report that summarizes the school council's activities for the previous school year, including a financial statement relating to money, if any, handled by the school council.

Secretary

The school council secretary typically acts as a recorder at each meeting and ensures that the minutes are prepared accurately to reflect the directions agreed to at the meeting.

A few notes:

- To kick off the year, we will be starting with a **bottle drive** on October 19 at the school. Start saving those bottles and stay tuned for more details.
- Our first major fundraiser will be **Stawnichy's** sausage and perogies! Ordering information will come home in November for a pick-up date in December. This has continuously been our biggest fundraiser of the year and we hope this year is no different!
- We already have a few other ideas brewing for events and fundraisers for the coming year and we hope to see you at our AGM to discuss them further!

Sync the School Calendar to Your Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? You can. Simply, visit <https://www.southpointeschool.ca/about/calendar> and click on one of the following calendar options you want to subscribe to:

- Add to Google Calendar: Google calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar: Outlook
- Download iCal: Apple calendar



NOTE: Options are located above the calendar.



Once you click on the calendar option you want to subscribe to, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all of SouthPointe School's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

Enhancing Literacy and Numeracy

As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy and numeracy of students in all grade levels, the Division is once again administering the STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI) assessment tools in the 2019-20 school year. The tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: To provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure student learning needs are identified.

In September and May, EIPS students in grades 1 through 12 will complete the STAR 360 assessment, which evaluates reading comprehension. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and is administered on a digital device. Also, in September, students in grades 2 through 10 will complete the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematic screening tool used to inform teachers about a student's math skills. For students in grades 7 through 10, the MIPI takes approximately 50 minutes, and for students in grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results offer the teacher a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

The scores of the assessments aren't used toward a student's grade, and there is no need to study ahead of time. The tools simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies.

For more information about the Division's STAR 360 and MIPI assessment tools, contact EIPS Supports for Students at [780-464-3477](tel:780-464-3477).

Caregiver Education Series

The Division, in partnership with Alberta Health Services and Elk Island Catholic Schools, is hosting a series of caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. This year, session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, and more.

Visit the Division calendar to see all scheduled caregiver sessions.

UPCOMING DATES

September 18	Meet the Staff 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Cross Country Running Meet
September 23	Picture Day for Mon/Wed Kindergarten classes
September 24	Picture Day S.Y.N.C.



11 SouthPointe Blvd., Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L 0T9
p 780-998-2747 SouthPointeSchool.ca



September 25	Cross Country Running Meet School Council & Fundraising Society AGM – 6:00 pm in the Learning Commons
September 30	Orange Shirt Day
October 2	Early Dismissal (end of the day 1:51 p.m.)
October 7-11	Read in Week
October 11	NO SCHOOL – Professional Learning Day for staff
October 14	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Day
October 21	Picture Re-takes for Mon/Wed Kindergarten classes
October 23 & 24	Parent-Teacher Interviews
October 24	Picture Re-takes