

September 2020



Principal's Message

We are excited to have students and staff back in our building to start the year. Our students have adapted to the new routines and we are getting quicker with our procedures for entering and exiting the building. We would like to thank all staff, students and parents for their patience and continued support as we navigate through these unprecedented times. We will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure the wellbeing and safety of our school community.

We have had a number of questions from parents/guardians regarding student illness. Please refer to the following link which provides the most up to date information from Alberta Health Services:

[Student Illness: If a student has COVID-19 symptoms](#)

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

We would like to thank you for your positivity, support and encouragement as we make the best of the new school year. We feel lucky to be a part of the SouthPointe family.

Carol Brown and Corey Kropp
Principal and Assistant Principal

Entrance and Exit Door Info

To help our students and their families, we have labeled the exterior doors of the school with orange 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: The doors located on the far south west of the school at the parent drop off loop.
- ❖ Grades 2 & 3: The north east doors located at the back of the school (left of the overhead door).
- ❖ Grades 4 & 5: The south doors located at the end of the new modular.
- ❖ Grades 6 & 8: The south doors located at the back of the school (right of the overhead door).
- ❖ Grades 7 & 9: The north doors located by the bus drop off lanes.

Parent Waiting Area



Picking up your child? Please wait at your child's designated doors or your prearranged pick up area outside 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 front office for you. Thank you for continuing to sign in at the office if you are at the school for an appointment.



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 or along the street on SouthPointe Blvd. 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.

Late Drop Off and Early Pick Up

If your child arrives after 8:15 a.m., please send them through the main entrance doors (located on Allard Way) as all other doors are locked after this time. They will have to come through the office to sign in and sanitize hands before going to class.

If you need to pick up your child early, please let the teacher or front office know in advance. Once you are here, you can call the office at 780-998-2747 or you can come to the main office door and we will send your child out to you. You don't have to sign them out in the office – we will do that for you!

Bell Schedule

School starts: 8:15 a.m.
Lunch: 11:13 - 11:53 a.m. (Early Out lunch: 11:24 a.m. – 12:07 p.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 calendar on our [website](#).

At SouthPointe School we have staggered recesses and lunch hour schedule to ensure that students remain in their cohorts. Cohort A (1SJ, 1J, 2D, 3G, 4R, 5E and 6-1) will have recess breaks at 9:44 and 1:22 for 15 minutes. Students in this cohort will go outside for lunch recess first and then eat their lunch from 11:33-11:53 a.m. Students in cohort B (1M, 2W, 2Y, 3O, 4M, 5B and 6-2) will have recess breaks at 10:03 a.m and 1:41 p.m for 15 minutes. Students in this cohort will eat first and then go outside from 11:33 - 11:53 a.m. Our Grade 7, 8 and 9 students will have the choice to stay inside in a designated area or go outside for morning and afternoon breaks. These breaks are at 10:03 a.m. and 1:41 p.m. Students will eat their lunch in their homeroom from 11:13 - 11:33a.m. and then go to their indoor designated area from 11:33-11:53a.m

Student Absences

Parents/guardians are asked to inform the school if their child is going to be absent. Notification may be given by telephoning the office at (780) 998-2747 or reported through the school website (under the Contact tab and then Attendance in the dropdown box). 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.

Updating Our Re-Entry Plan

Thank you to our SouthPointe community for your support and encouragement as we put our Re-entry Plan



into effect. As with most plans, many processes worked out well while others may need to be refined as we go.

We would like to extend a HUGE thank you to all the parents during pick up and drop off! Traffic has flowed smoothly, and students have come and gone from school safely! We could not do this without you!

We are very grateful for the helpful and respectful feedback that we have received from parents and guardians. Your willingness to share your suggestions with us is appreciated and we are certain that our combined efforts and best ideas will continue to make school a safe and fun place in which to learn.

Here are a few questions that have popped up about some of our procedures since school has begun. We hope to clarify in order to ensure that everyone is on the same page.

Masks - When is it okay to remove them?

We are so impressed with our students for their willingness to don a mask. Even our youngest students have worn their masks, we are so proud of them!

We do understand that having breaks from wearing masks is important. Students are permitted to remove masks in certain situations such as lunch and snack time, as well as in gym or recess depending on the activity. If students are doing something outside or in a larger space (like our gym) and they are separated from each other, they are welcome to remove their masks. Our teachers are working with their classes to find times for daily mask breaks.

Can my child wear a neck gaiter, neck buff or mask lanyard?

According to Elk Island Public School safety guidelines, the use of neck gaiters and bandanna style face coverings is not permitted at this time. Evaluation by public health officials is ongoing but current evidence seems to indicate they do not provide the same level of protection as a properly fitted cloth face mask or disposable mask, and may in fact present additional risk by breaking down droplets into a finer mist that remains airborne longer.

In addition, mask lanyards (break away or otherwise) are not allowed. According to Alberta Health Services, it is not good practice to wear a mask around the neck. We have provided a clip for each student so they can attach it to their clothing when having a mask break.

Water bottles

We encourage students to bring a water bottle to school and to use it regularly throughout the day. Wearing a mask can be dehydrating and drinking water is important. Students are welcome to keep their water bottles with them in class for easy access and reduced opportunities for crossing paths with other cohorts in the hallways.

Hand washing and sanitizing

Students will practice hand hygiene throughout the day. We will use sanitizer for when a student enters and exits the building and classrooms.

Milk Cartons/Juice Box Recycling

Currently, we are asking students to pack up any recycling, including milk cartons and juice boxes, into their lunch kits as we are not running a recycling program at this time.

Brightspace

On the EIPS homepage there is now a section with Brightspace login information and guides for both students and parents. Please check out the [link](#) for further information.

2020-21 Staff List

Certificated Staff:

ECS	Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Parker, Ms. Salkeld
Grade 1	Mrs. Jefferis, Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Munsterman
Grade 2	Mrs. de Jong, Mrs. Chantel Werner, Mr. Yung
Grade 3	Miss Gusniowsky, Ms. Oram
Grade 4	Miss Melnyk, Mrs. Rosato
Grade 5	Mrs. Bossert, Mr. Epp
Grade 6	Mr. Henderson, Mrs. Molyneaux
Grade 7/8/9	Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Candler, Mrs. Henry, Ms. McKee, Mr. Nyznyk, Mr. Sudyk
Music	Mrs. Zapesocki
Principal	Miss Brown
Assistant Principal	Mrs. Kropp



Classified Staff

Educational Assistants:

ECS	Mrs. Hammel
Grade 1	Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Kenny
Grade 2	Mrs. Hamilton
Grade 3	Mrs. Dykstra, Ms. Gaudet, Mrs. Pitters
Grade 4	Mrs. Zielinski
Grade 5	Miss Nice
Grade 6	Mrs. Edwards
Grade 7	Mrs. Edwards
Grade 9	Mrs. Kenny, Mrs. Scott
Library Assistant	Mrs. Adams
Business Manager	Mrs. Warwa
Secretary	Mrs. Barker

Update Your PowerSchool Information

The "Correction and Verification Form" is now available online through your PowerSchool Parent Portal. 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. In particular, please pay close attention to all phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact information. We will undoubtedly continue to have important information to communicate with families throughout this school year—whether your child is registered in in-school or out-of-school learning—and we want to ensure you receive this information. If you haven't already done so, we ask all SouthPointe School families to review their child's PowerSchool information by **Sept. 20, 2020**.

For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form, contact the school directly.

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.

Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2020-21 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by the end of September. 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.

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, 2020.

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

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
- discourage 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

Currently meetings are not open to the public.

Munch-a-Lunch update: FASS will be in touch by email, over the next few weeks, with all parents who have a remaining credit.

Ongoing fundraising: Our goal is to raise \$30,000.00 to complete a space for the junior high students outside! How can you help?

- Every time you eat at a **Boston Pizza** in the Edmonton area and Northern Alberta SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS! There is a collection envelope on the FASS Bulletin board in the front entry way of the school, please drop your receipts there. Boston Pizza will give back 5% of what we spend!
- Every time you shop at **Cobs Bread** mention SouthPointe School. 5% of what you spend will go back to the school.
- **FLIP GIVE** who doesn't love online shopping? Go through the app to shop or purchase gift cards at Amazon, Under Armour, Old Navy, and tons more. When you spend money, FASS raises money. Download the FLIP GIVE APP, join the FASS team, enter code K2TQ9X and start shopping. We've raised over \$1,000 - let's keep going!

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 for all in-school learners in the 2020-21 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.

At three points throughout the year, EIPS in-school 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. At least once throughout the year, in-school 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.

UPCOMING DATES

September 23	Picture Day for Mon/Wed kindergarten and grades 7, 8 & 9
September 24	Picture Day for Tues/Thurs kindergarten and grades 1 - 6
September 30	Orange Shirt Day
October 7	Early Dismissal (end of the day 1:51 p.m.)
October 9	NO SCHOOL – Professional Learning Day for staff
October 12	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Day
October 14 & 15	Parent-Teacher Interviews
October 21	Picture Re-takes for Mon/Wed kindergarten and grades 7, 8 & 9
October 22	Picture Re-takes for Tues/Thurs kindergarten and grades 1 - 6