

September 2021



Principal's Message

We are excited to have students and staff back in our building to start the year. Our students have settled in well and we have had a smooth startup. We would like to thank all staff, students and parents for their patience and continued support as we navigate back-to-school routines. We will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure the wellbeing and safety of our school community.

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone our in-person 'Meet the Teacher. Elementary teachers will instead be contacting families to introduce themselves during the month of September. For families with junior high students one of your child's teachers will contact you and introduce themselves.

We are hopeful that if conditions allow, we can return to providing our school community with some of the opportunities that we were unable to participate in last year. Hot lunch, athletics, choir, and field trips are a few of the activities that we are hopeful will return. Volleyball tryouts were taking place this week and choir information has been sent home with interested students.

We have several new staff members at SouthPointe School this year. Please check out the school directory located on our SouthPointe website for contact information on how to reach your child's teacher. Please continue to check our [website](#) on a regular basis for updated school information.

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, Principal

Jay Robertson, Assistant Principal

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:

- ❖ All junior high students will use the entrance located by the bus lane.
- ❖ All kindergarten students will use the front main entrance by the office.
- ❖ All grade one students will use the entrance located south of the main entrance by the parent drop off loop.
- ❖ All grade three students will use the entrance at the far end of the modular classrooms south of the grade one entrance.
- ❖ All grade two and four students will use the entrance west of the playground.
- ❖ All grade five and six students will use the entrance north of the playground (staff entrance).

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 and we will send your child out to you or you can come into the main office.

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 [website](#) calendar.

To accommodate the number of students wishing to play on our new playground, we have staggered our lunch hour schedule. Students in grades 1-3 will eat their lunch from 11:13-11:32 a.m. and then go outside for lunch recess. Grades 4-6 students will go outside for lunch recess from 11:13-11:32 a.m. and then come inside to eat lunch. Our Grade 7-9 students will eat lunches in their classrooms from 11:13-11:32 a.m. and then have the option to socialize together for the remainder of the lunch break.

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.

2021-22 Staff List

Certificated Staff:

ECS	Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Henderson, Ms. Salkeld
Grade 1	Mrs. Jefferis, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Mark
Grade 2	Mrs. de Jong, Mrs. Lechelt, Mr. Yung
Grade 3	Ms. Germaine, Miss Gusniowsky, Ms. Oram
Grade 4	Miss Melnyk, Mrs. Rosato
Grade 5	Mrs. Bossert, Mr. Epp
Grade 6	Mrs. Booker, Mr. Henderson
Grade 7/8/9	Mrs. Floyd, Mrs. Henry, Ms. Lichak, Ms. McKee, Mrs. Nelson, Mr. Nyznyk, Mr. Sudyk
Music	Mrs. Zapesocki
Principal	Miss Brown
Assistant Principal	Mr. Robertson



Classified Staff

Educational Assistants:

ECS	Mrs. Boychuk, Ms. Parvez, Mrs. Scott
Grade 1	Ms. Dubrule, Mrs. Hammel
Grade 2	Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Zielinski
Grade 3	Mrs. Edwards
Grade 4	Mrs. Pitters
Grade 5	Mrs. Dykstra, Ms. Gaudet
Grade 6	Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Kenny
Grade 8	Mrs. Zielinski
Library Assistant	Mrs. Adams
Business Manager	Mrs. Warwa
Secretary	Mrs. Barker

Meet the Teacher - Postponed

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone our in-person 'Meet the Teacher' event scheduled for September 15. Elementary teachers will instead be contacting families to introduce themselves during the month of September. For families with junior high students, one of your child's teachers will contact you and introduce themselves.

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 the form and submitting updates ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child.

If you've recently moved, now is the time to ensure the Division has your updated address information. In particular, please also pay close attention to all phone numbers, email addresses and emergency

contact information. The Division will undoubtedly continue to have important information to communicate with families throughout this school year, 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. 22, 2021.

For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form, contact the school office at 780-998-2747.

AHS COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

Alberta Health Services (AHS) will be holding COVID-19 immunization clinics in schools in September and October for students aged 12 to 19 in Grades 7-12. EIPS strongly encourages all eligible students and staff to get fully vaccinated.

The immunization program is scheduled to begin the week of September 7—specific dates will be shared with parents once AHS provides a schedule. For specific information about the program, please view

[Attachment 1 - AHS COVID-19 School Immunization Program Letter.pdf](#).

Parent/guardian consent for students will be required through a signed [AHS Consent Form for COVID-19 In-School Immunization.pdf](#). It is important that parents/guardians print off and return completed consent forms for their children by end of the day on September 16, 2021. The AHS mature minor processes will not apply for the COVID-19 school immunization program.

NOTE: Students under 18 years of age will NOT be immunized without a signed parental consent form.

If you have any questions or concerns about AHS' school-based vaccination clinics, please contact your local public health office or call 811.

Terry Fox Run

SouthPointe is proud to be participating in the 2021 Terry Fox School Run on September 28.

Please help our students make a

difference in the lives of so many Canadians affected by cancer. Donate at <http://www.terryfox.ca/SouthpointeSchool>. Together we can all make a difference!



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.

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 the applicable subscription option:

- Download to iCal
- Add to Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar

NOTE: Options are located above the calendar.



Once you click on the desired subscription option, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all SouthPointe’s important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2021-22 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by late 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 debit—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 and senior high fees can change as courses are added and deleted.

If circumstances exist where you’re 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, 2021.

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.

Video surveillance on Buses

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 Act). 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.

Fundraising Association and School Council Update

The first Fundraising Association and School Council virtual meeting of the school year will be held on September 22, 2021 at 4:30 pm. All are welcome and encouraged to participate! If you would like to attend the meeting, please email Assistant Principal, Jay Robertson at jay.robertson@eips.ca to request an invite.

Hour Zero Drills

Please discuss [these Hour Zero drills](#) with your children and reinforce the importance of listening carefully to teacher instructions. The most likely scenarios we will face, and we have experienced in the past, are wildlife, severe weather, and various situations outside. Our goal is not to instill fear but to be prepared for different situations should they occur.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these drills, please contact Jay Robertson, Assistant Principal.

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 Early Literacy/Star Reading and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI) assessment tools in the 2021-22 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.



Three times a year—in September, January/February and May/June—EIPS students in Grade 1 complete the Star Early Literacy assessment and students in grades 2-12 complete the Star Reading assessment. The assessments take approximately 20 minutes and are 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—students enrolled in math for

Semester 2 will complete the MIPI assessment in February. 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 and MIPI assessment tools, contact EIPS Supports for Students at 780-464-3477.

Caregiver Education Sessions

Alberta Health Services hosts a variety of virtual caregiver information sessions throughout the year 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. Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more.

Visit [Caregiver Education](#) to see the monthly caregiver sessions.

UPCOMING DATES

September 16	AHS Covid-19 Immunization Consent forms DUE
September 20	Picture Day for Mon/Wed kindergarten and grades 7, 8 & 9 Local authorities elections: Nomination day
September 21	Picture Day for Tues/Thurs kindergarten and grades 1 – 6
September 28	Terry Fox School Run Day
September 29	Orange Shirt Day
September 30	NO SCHOOL - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 5	World Teachers' Day
October 6	Early Dismissal (end of the day 1:51 p.m.)
October 11	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Day
October 18	NO SCHOOL – Professional Learning Day
October 20 & 21	Parent-Teacher Interviews
October 19	Picture Re-takes for Tues/Thurs kindergarten and grades 1 – 6
October 20	Picture Re-takes for Mon/Wed kindergarten and grades 7, 8 & 9

Hour Zero Drills

Evacuation/Fire

- “Evacuation” is used when the fire alarm sounds. This alarm requires all students and staff to leave the school and go to a designated location.
- In some cases, this may mean only going outside and away from the school building until it is safe to re-enter the school.
- In other cases, students and staff may need to go to a designated evacuation center. Parents would be informed of the alternate location via the school’s crisis notification network.

On Alert

- “On Alert” indicates there is a potential situation OUTSIDE and most often it has nothing to do with our school (wildlife in area, severe weather).
- When an “On Alert” is called, staff and students are directed to their classrooms, when outside they are to return to their classrooms.
- Movement is restricted in or out of classrooms, normal classroom activities continue.
- Staff are “on alert” and maintain situational awareness and are prepared to execute further action if needed.

Hold and Secure

- “Hold and Secure” is used when there is an immediate situation OUTSIDE (in the neighborhood).
- All exterior doors/windows are locked, interior doors remain in a normal state and normal classroom activities continue.
- Keep away from exterior windows and doors.
- No one is allowed in or out of the building.

Shelter-in-Place

- “Shelter-in-Place” is used when there is an immediate situation OUTSIDE (tornado, severe weather).
- All doors and windows are closed. Keep away from all doors and windows.
- All staff and students are directed to their designated “shelter-in-place” area.
- No one can leave their designated “shelter-in-place” area.
- Prepare for possible evacuation or “drop-cover-hold”.

Drop-Cover-Hold

- “Drop-Cover-Hold” is used when there is a situation happening to our building NOW (tornado, severe weather).
- All staff and students will drop under desk/sturdy table. Get down onto knees, curl chest to knees, clasp hands behind neck, put face down.
- Stay under cover with head down between knees. Cover face and eyes.
- Hold onto desk or table. Prepare for possible evacuation.



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



Lockdown

- “Lockdown” is used when there is a situation happening INSIDE the building.
- All staff and students are directed to closest lockdown zone/room. Lock and secure all doors and windows.
- Take cover, keep away from all doors and windows, stay out of sight lines.
- Do not allow anyone in or out of rooms.

Please discuss these drills with your children and reinforce the importance of listening carefully to teacher instructions. The most likely scenarios we will face, and we have experienced in the past, are wildlife, severe weather, and various situations outside. Our goal is not to instill fear but to be prepared.