

CHINOOK HIGH SCHOOL



GRADE 9 Registration Handbook (2025-2026)



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Principal's Message: Grade Nine

Welcome to Chinook High School! We are absolutely thrilled that you'll be joining us for the next four years. Chinook is a place where students, staff, and families work together to build something truly special—a school that is forward-thinking, inclusive, and committed to creating a learning environment where everyone can thrive. We take pride in fostering a culture of inclusion, one that not only pushes each of us toward excellence but also reminds us daily of the importance of kindness, respect, and, above all, taking care of each other.

At Chinook, students are encouraged to “know their why, take ownership and aim for growth”, driven by curiosity and a shared goal of academic and personal success. You'll be part of a community built on opportunity, growth, character, and heart. Our programs are designed to open doors for lifelong learning, meaningful employment, and exciting post-secondary pathways. For you—our incoming Grade 9 students—this is the start of discovering your own potential. We'll be here to support you every step of the way, holding high expectations not just for achievement, but for how we care for each other.

This first year will give you the chance to build the skills and habits that will serve you well in high school and far beyond. Always know that you are at the heart of every decision we make as a school. Together, we'll create an incredible journey, and 2025/2026 will mark an exciting new opportunity—filled with learning, discovery, challenges, and success.

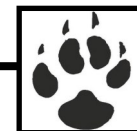
As you prepare to join us, remember to always work hard, get involved, and dream big. The next four years are yours to shape, and the experiences you create will be built on the choices you make.

Enjoy your remaining time in middle school—we can't wait to welcome you in the fall of 2025.

Keith van der Meer
Principal



If you want to buy cool Chinook-branded clothing, come see the Business Manager in the office, or check out the Spirit Wear link on our school website!





Frequently Asked Questions ...

Is there access to school computers?

Yes, you will have a school email account and many teachers will expect you to use computers in your classes. The Learning Commons contains computers for individual study and research. Appropriate use of computers is expected. Some gaming and inappropriate web sites are off limits. All student log-ins are monitored by our computer system administrator. Students are also encouraged to bring their own laptops or tablets to use at school as well.

Can I try out for school teams and clubs?

Yes, we have lots of Grade 9 sports teams, lots of clubs and activities, and room on students' council as well. There is so much to do; the hard part is deciding what you like best!



General Information for Students Entering Grade 9



This booklet is designed to help you plan your Grade 9 year at Chinook High School. The Grade 9 year is the foundation for the following years. **Keep in mind that your success in Grade 9 subjects will determine which courses you take in Grade 10.** Set realistic goals and keep up with your class work. Grade 9 is an important year of transition for you.

Your Grade 9 Program

- Students entering Grade 9 will be assigned to a teacher-advisor who will help with high school programming over the next 4 years.
- All students will take Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Physical Education/Health.
- Electives for grade 9 are quartered. This means there are a total of 4 possible electives grade 9s will take. When you select electives, we will ask you to select the first 4 you wish to take, along with 6 alternates in case we can't get you your first choices. Grade 9 students will be allowed to select only one of Band or Choir, as they take 2 elective spaces and are not scheduled to allow you to take both. In addition, due to the popularity of Foods 9 and Construction Technology 9, students will only be allowed to select **one** of those two as a primary selection.

Back to School Info

Please watch for future communication on school photos and grade 9 orientation.

The first day of school is September 2, 2025. We will communicate the start time for Grade 9 students in the months to come.



Homeroom groupings

Each Grade 9 student will be assigned to a pattern. Your pattern is not a location, it is a group of students. All students in the same pattern will remain together for all core subjects. Your pattern will be identified by a number designation such as 9-1, 9-2, 9-3, etc.

Each pattern grouping will have a unique timetable indicating the time and location for each class. Pattern groups travel to different classrooms each period. For options, students **will not** remain in pattern groupings. Timetables for electives are determined on an individual basis according to student requests.

Advisor Groups

Each Grade 9 student will be assigned to a teacher-advisor. Your advisor group will always meet in the same place, usually the teacher-advisor's classroom. Your advisor will be the same person for your entire high school career. Advisor groups are made up of ~23 students from all four high school grades. The group has the ability to meet every day in a 12 minute class period specifically set aside on the timetable.

Knowledge and Employability Program (K & E)

The Knowledge and Employability courses are designed to assist students in developing essential concepts, skills, and attitudes. The program includes courses in Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, and English and focuses on topics that are required for responsible participation in the home, school, workplace, and community. Successful completion of this program results in a Certificate of High School Achievement. The Knowledge and Employability (K&E) program requires qualification; please contact an administrator for more details.

Knowledge & Employability courses include:

- Science 10-4 and 20-4
- Math 10-4 and 20-4
- Social 10-4 and 20-4
- English 10-4, 20-4 and 30-4
- Workplace Practicum 10-4, 20-4 and 30-4



Frequently Asked Questions ...

Is there a cafeteria?

We have a full service cafeteria. Students are encouraged to bring their own lunch but there is a full service cafeteria on site.

Can I wear my hat?

Hats are permitted in the school. Some teachers may ask that you remove them during class. Hats are removed for some assemblies and when we play O' Canada.

Are we allowed to go to lockers between classes?

Yes, but you are still held accountable if you are late for class.

Does Chinook have a closed campus?

No, we have an open campus, which means that students may leave campus at flex (lunch time) or if they have a spare (only some Grade 11 and 12 students have spares).

Can we use backpacks?

Yes, students are permitted to carry books to class in backpacks.

Does Chinook have a dress code?

Yes, we expect students to be neat, clean and presentable.

Students with inappropriate clothing will be asked to go home and change or immediately alter their clothing to acceptable standards.





Frequently Asked Questions ...

Is it true that students call teachers by their first name?

Yes, we are on a first name basis with our students.

Can I bring my cell phone to school?

Yes, you can. Please refer to our [digital device guidelines](#) and [ministerial order](#) regarding cell phone use during the school day.

Did you say Media Centre?

Yes, Chinook High School has a Media Centre (Theatre). The Media Centre seats 350 people on upholstered chairs on a sloped floor. If you would like a visual and are familiar with the Yates Memorial Theatre in Lethbridge it would be safe to say that our Centre is a slightly smaller version of the Yates.

What does the gym look like?

Our gym is over 14 000 square feet. If you are familiar with most other high school gyms it is safe to say that Chinook's is 40% to 50% larger. For example, we have 3 volleyball courts side-by-side where most gyms have two. Our gym seats 1200 people in the bleachers and comes equipped with event lighting which means the courts are brighter than the lights over the crowd when a game is being played.



The following course descriptions are provided as a preview of the topic and concepts covered in the Grade 9 curriculum.

Compulsory Classes

English Language Arts 9

In English Language Arts 9 students will engage in reading, listening, viewing, writing, speaking, and representing with an emphasis on intentional exploration. ELA 9 is a year long course. Classes will be held daily.

Math 9

In Math 9, students will engage in reasoning, problem solving, communicating, connecting, and representing mathematical ideas with an emphasis on intentional exploration. Math 9 is a semester long course, occurring in semester 1 or 2. Classes will be held daily.

Science 9

In Science 9, students will cultivate scientific inquiry skills through purposeful questioning, systematic investigation, critical analysis, and effective communication of scientific concepts. Science 9 is a semester long course, occurring in semester 1 or 2. Classes will be held daily.

Social Studies 9

In Social Studies 9, students will examine historical and contemporary issues through critical inquiry, evidence-based analysis, and thoughtful interpretation to deepen their understanding of societal complexities. Social Studies 9 is a semester long course, occurring in the opposite semester 1 or 2 of science. Classes will be held daily.

Physical Education/Health 9

PE 9 – Physical Education 9 is a compulsory course at Chinook High School. It is taught in combination with Health & Wellness 9 with 25% of the course being health and 75% PE. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a number of different activities including a variety of team sports as well as some individual pursuits.



Selecting Your Grade 9 Electives*

General Guidelines:

The following guidelines are provided to assist students and their parents in selecting Grade 9 electives:

1. Electives are quartered, so there are four (4) elective spaces for Grade 9 students.
2. Band and Choir will fill two elective spaces with each course. Students will only be allowed to choose one or the other due to conflicting schedules.
3. Due to the popularity of Foods 9 and Construction Technology 9, students will only be allowed to select one of those two as a primary selection.

On the Grade 9 registration form, students will be asked to choose 4 primary elective choices (3 if they choose one of Band or Choir). Students will also be asked to choose 4-6 alternate electives. Every effort will be made to timetable students into their top choices but due to availability of space, some students may not get every elective they want. This is why the alternates are important, and must be different from the primary choices. Electives available to grade 9 students include:

- Art
- Band
- Choir
- Computer Programming
- Construction Technology
- Critical Thinking; Game Theory
- Beginner and Intermediate Dance
- Digital Media
- Drama
- Environmental Science
- Fashion Studies
- Film Making
- Foods
- Football (North American)
- Guitar
- History Through Film
- Leadership
- Military History
- Modern Languages
- AI, Media & Misinformation
- Photography
- Rock and Pop
- Soccer
- Sports Performance
- Technical Theatre
- Yoga

* See "Grade 9—Elective Choices" Documents for full descriptions



For the Parents



Did you know ...

Lethbridge School District uses PowerSchool to strengthen its communication between the school and home. Using the Parent Portal, parents and guardians can now access information online regarding their child's grades and attendance.

Download PowerSchool Mobile today on your Apple or Android device to stay connected. The same app can be used by both parents and students. You'll have real-time access to attendance, upcoming assignments, grades and more.

School Cash Online

As Chinook High School does not accept post dated-cheques, School Cash Online is the perfect alternative as it's an easy and safe way to pay for your child's school fees. Now, with a few clicks, you can pay for school fees, yearbook, performance tickets, Chinook clothing and so much more from your own home. All you have to do is register an account, attach your children and make the payments online. We accept many different payment forms so check it out at <https://lethbridge.schoolcashonline.com>.

All fees can also be paid in the school office. We accept debit, Visa, Mastercard and cash.



SchoolCashOnline
POWERED BY KEV GROUP





Flex Time

What is Flex time? Flex time is a block of time in the school day or school week when students have the opportunity to make decisions to guide their learning in areas of need or interest.

Currently there are two consecutive flex blocks where teachers offer office hours and students are able to take advantage of personalized learning opportunities. Flex time is when a lunch hour would typically occur.

Some of this time will be structured and you will be required to be in a certain place, doing a certain thing, and some of it will be unstructured, where you can eat and visit (or leave, as long as you are back on time). Some appropriate choices for Flex time would be academic self direction or clubs.



Co-Curricular Program

(some events may vary due to student interest and staff expertise)

ATHLETIC TEAMS

- Football
- Volleyball
 - Girls' Varsity & Junior
 - Boys' Varsity & Junior
 - Grade 9 boys and girls
- Basketball
 - Girls' Varsity & Junior
 - Boys' Varsity & Junior
 - Grade 9 boys and girls
- Badminton
- Baseball
- Curling
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Track & Field
- Rugby
 - Girls' Varsity & Junior
 - Boys' Varsity & Junior
- Softball
- Slo-pitch
- Wrestling
- Weight Lifting
- Intramural Activities
- Sports Events Assistant:
 - Gate Supervision
 - Scorekeeping
 - Linesman
 - Other duties

SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS

- Drama Productions
- "Arts Alive and Well"
- Winter Concert
- Spring Concert
- Dance Productions

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Basketball & Volleyball Tournaments
- City Track and Field Meet
- Academic Awards Night
- Graduation
- Yote Day
- Art Club
- Board Game Club
- Book Club/Creative Writing
- Chess Club
- Christian Fellowship
- Chinook Environmentalists



- Cosplay and Fandom
- Creative Writing Club
- Culture Club
- Drink Tea and Make Stuff or Whatever
- Drum Line
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Grad Committee
- Games Club
- Interact Club
- Math Club
- Magic Club
- Nitsitapi
- QSA
- Robotics
- Tabletop Games
- Teen Mentoring





2024-2025 School Fees

(Subject to Change)

General Fees:

- Locker rental \$5
- Support for clubs/teams varies
- Text book rental fee \$5
- Activity Fee (*School District Event Admission, Access to Athletics Facilities such as the gym and Fitness Centre, Access to facilities such as the Computer Labs and Media Center excluding Fine Arts Productions*) \$20

In addition there may be supplementary fees dependant on elective courses selected and optional items.

Deferral or Waiver of School Fees:

Parents may apply to pay fees on an instalment plan due to economic difficulties, or in exceptional cases school fees may be waived. In either case, parents must contact the school business manager prior to the start of the school year.

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Bell Times (Subject to Change)

Please see our website for the most up to date bell schedule.

Bussing

Westside students who live more than 2.0 km (public walkway) from Chinook and are inside the Chinook boundaries (please see boundary maps at <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/transportation/school-boundaries>) will be eligible to ride the yellow school buses from route W1 – W12. After reviewing the maps on the school district website if you are still not sure if you qualify to ride the bus please ask in the office.

* Students who are attending an out of boundary school by choice will not be provided any bussing.

Out of Boundary Students

While any high school student can attend any high school they choose providing there is room and resources at the school of choice, students who wish to attend an out of boundary school must complete an Out of Boundary Application for Admission form this form can be found here: [OOB Form](#)

*Students who are attending an out of boundary school by choice will not be provided bussing.

Lockers

Students are assigned lockers and locks according to advisor groups. Students are expected to use the lockers they have been assigned. Please do not change or share with other students as you are responsible for your assigned lock, locker and the contents.

We do not allow personal locks. Do not share your lock combination with anyone!