



MEDIA RELEASE

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Trustees approve configuration of Grades 7-12 for new school in Penhold

For Immediate Release, February 8, 2012: The Chinook's Edge Board of Education passed a motion to formally designate the new school in Penhold as a Grades 7-12 school when it opens in September 2014.

"The single most frequent comment from all parents was to open the new school to serve students from Grades 7-12 right from the start," said Ray Hoppins, Associate Superintendent of System Services who has led an extensive series of surveys with families in the County of Red Deer. "The demographics show this is a thriving region with a growing population, and these families will be very pleased to know that the school will open fully equipped and prepared to meet the needs of our high school students straight through to graduation."

Extensive studies have shown the regional demographics and population growth forecasts support the school opening as a Grade 7-12 with a full complement of high school programming. The school will open with state-of-the-art facilities and programming, including CTS specialties in fabrication, welding, construction, food studies, cosmetology and media arts. It will also provide extensive band, music and arts programming, and emphasize sports, athletics and fitness. Underlying everything will be an emphasis on academic excellence.

Once completed, Chinook's Edge schools in Penhold will serve the learning needs of students from throughout the area from the time they enter pre-kindergarten to the time they graduate from high school.

"This is such exciting news, because this is where I want my kids to be," said De Galesloot, who has three children in school at Penhold. "There is a compassion for students and a passion for learning in these schools. That comes from the teachers and staff, but it also comes from the families and if they have to leave town for high school that is taken away. The teachers here ignite an interest for learning and excelling in every student and my children desperately want to stay in this community. Now the students can remain together for their full school experience and I'm just thrilled."

Associate Superintendent Ray Hoppins has spoken with parents of 163 students directly by phone to determine their hopes and expectations for the new school. As well, over 100 stakeholders attended a public forum in November. Details and updates on the new school in Penhold are available at www.chinooksedge.ab.ca. The Town of Penhold is a growing community of just over 2,000 people, located 13 km south of Red Deer on Highway 2A.

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