



École Camrose Composite High School

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Dear Students, Parents/Guardians:

What a year it has been for students and staff at ÉCCHS as we continue to navigate through some challenging times. ÉCCHS continues to remain committed to supporting students, parents and staff in feeling safe at school, while providing high quality teaching and learning opportunities for all students. We appreciate students' patience and parental support as we continue to move learning forward.

As you are aware, this school year we committed to a quarter system timetable, enabling us to easily transition between "in school" and "at home" learning. In quarter 2, we all experienced this reality as all grade 9-12 students were shifted to "at home" learning. The feedback that we received from students and parents was that they appreciated the benefits of only having 1,2 or 3 classes to focus on in a single day.

As the year has progressed we have paid close attention to the learning needs of our students and received feedback from our students, parents, and staff. Although the ease of transitioning back and forth was positive, we have started to observe many challenges with the quarter system timetable including the following:

- a) In order to manage the lengthy classes, longer breaks have been deemed necessary for students, resulting in a decrease in overall instructional time.
- b) The pace in a quarter system creates some challenges around the time required for the brain to process complex concepts, resulting in an increased level of anxiety for many students.
- c) In the quarter system, students struggled to keep up, or catch up, after having missed a class due to illness or from being a close contact. This has led to ongoing attendance issues for some students.
- d) The loss of continuous scaffolded learning opportunities may create future challenges if, for example, a student takes a course in quarter 1 of this year and the following leveled course isn't timetabled until quarter 4 of next year.
- e) Although we managed to schedule all subjects and programming needs for this year, our French Immersion and Advanced Placement Programs were difficult to fit into a quarter system timetable, as many of those classes are designed for a semester or full year timetable.
- f) In our current year, PAT exams, diploma exams, and most final exams were eliminated. Although this has helped reduce some stress for our students and teachers this year, fundamentally the quarter system is much less flexible in preparing for these

standardized assessments. When the province mandates a return to these examinations, a quarter system will likely lead to increased student and teacher anxiety.

This has not been an easy year for anyone and we can appreciate everyone's frustrations around having to navigate the many challenges we have faced. We have also appreciated the support we have received from students and parents this year.

For next year, we have made the decision to revert back to a semester timetable for all grade 9 - 12 students for the reasons mentioned above. It is our hope that come September, our reality will be much different than now and we can revert back to more normal and familiar routines.

If you have any questions that haven't been answered here, please be in touch with us. We will do our best to continue to provide updates throughout the remainder of this year and keep you informed around policy and procedural changes. We also know, especially right now, that things can change very quickly. Please continue to check school messenger updates, our website at www.cchs.brsd.ab.ca, and the Battle River School Website at www.brsd.ab.ca.

Stay Healthy and Well,

Our Administrative Team,

Shane Gau- Principal ECCHS

Sandra Wills- Assistant Principal ECCHS

Caroline Simonson- Assistant Principal ECCHS

Miles Walsh- Assistant Principal ECCHS