



Newsletter

BISHOP DAVID MOTIUK CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
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Welcome Messages



Administrators' Message

Welcome back to another exciting school year! We are thrilled to welcome both our new and returning students and families to Bishop David Motiuk School. It is a joy to have you with us, and we are grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in your child's educational journey.

This year, our division theme is "Rejoice in Hope," inspired by Romans 12:12, which reads, "Be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer." As the late Pope Francis declared a Jubilee Year in 2025 with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," this theme resonates deeply with us.

"Rejoicing in Hope" means embracing optimism in the face of challenges, trusting in God's plan for us, and spreading that hope to others. In our school community, this theme will guide our interactions, our learning, and our service to one another. We will encourage our students to be beacons of hope—supporting their peers, showing compassion, and acting with kindness in all that they do.

This theme also challenges us to reflect on how we can be agents of change in the world, promoting justice, peace, and understanding. As a school, we will engage in activities that help our students understand the importance of hope in action—whether it's through social justice projects, community service, or simply reaching out to someone in need.

We are also excited to be finishing up our IB Self-Study, which was a year long examination of how we meet the IB Standards and Practices in preparation for our evaluation visit from the IB this year. This is a significant step for us in our ongoing journey toward academic excellence, promoting social justice and the common good, and celebrating the rich diversity that each culture brings to our school community.



Administrators' Message

We deeply value the collaboration of all our stakeholders in supporting the holistic growth of our students—spiritually, academically, socially, and physically. Your involvement as parents is essential to creating a nurturing environment, and we look forward to your active participation in school activities, events, and School Council meetings.

Please mark your calendars for our Meet the Staff Evening on Thursday, September 11 at 6:30 PM. This event is a wonderful opportunity to connect with the educators who will be guiding your children throughout the year.

Our first School Council meeting of the year is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24 at 6:00 PM in the Learning Commons. This meeting will also serve as our Annual General Meeting. We encourage all parents to attend, as these meetings provide a forum for you to contribute to the life of our school.

We look forward to a year filled with growth, learning, and shared experiences and working together to create a community where hope thrives. Together, let's make this school year a remarkable journey for our children.

Terry Volk

Principal

John Edwards

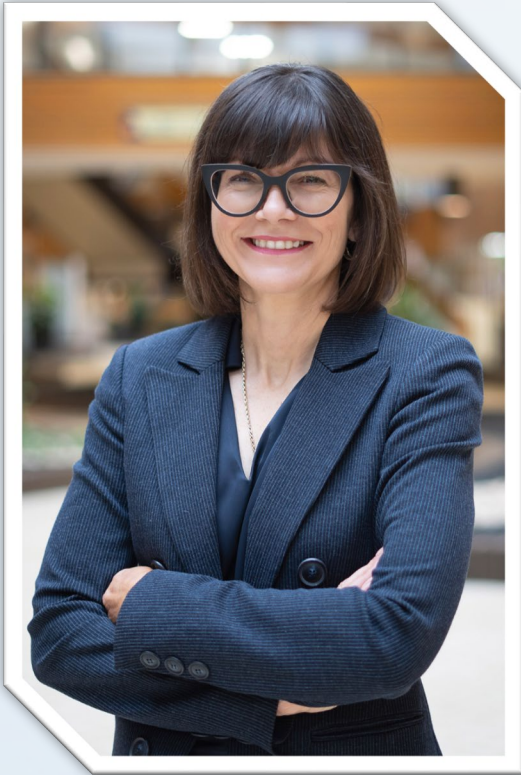
Assistant Principal

Joe Estephan

Assistant Principal



Chief Superintendent Anderson's Message



[Chief Superintendent Anderson's Message](#) for September is available on our division website.

IB Coordinators' Message



We are looking forward to continuing to enhance and build our strong Primary and Middle Years IB programmes this year. Over the coming months we will be sharing information and features about the wonderful learning taking place in our classrooms.

As always, we welcome questions about the IB programmes in our school. Andrea Olivieri is the coordinator for the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Lyndsy Panizzon is the coordinator for the Middle Years Programme (MYP). They can be reached at Andrea.Olivieri@ecsd.net and Lyndsy.Panizzon@ecsd.net

Important Information



Labour Updates

The Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA), which represents teachers throughout the province, and the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA), which represents the Government, are currently negotiating a new collective agreement.

At this time, no job action has been announced, so we are preparing for business as usual, with school starting on September 2, 2025.

For updates on the bargaining process and possible job action, please visit the [Labour Updates](#) page on our division website.



Permeation of Faith

As a result of Bill 44, The Alberta Human Rights Act requires all schools in the province of Alberta to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, educational programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.

The essential purpose of Edmonton Catholic Schools is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and education program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.



Meet the Staff

A current staff list, with links to teacher and administration email addresses, was emailed to families via School Messenger. Currently, we have:

ATA Certificated Staff		Support Staff	
Teachers	30	Clerical Support	3
Instructional Coaches	2	Media Resources	1
IB Coordinators	2	Educational Assistants	9
Chaplain	1	Therapeutic Assistant – Behavior	3
Assistant Principals	2	Emotional Behavioral Specialist	1
Principal	1	Family School Liaison Social Worker	1
		Therapeutic Assistant – Speech & Language	1
		Custodial	4
Total ATA Staff	38	Total Support Staff	23
Total Staff	61		

Enrolment and Class Sizes

The word is out in the community that Bishop David Motiuk is a great school, and we are pleased to be able to meet the needs of Catholic families residing in Lewis Estates. Even with the opening of St. Josephine Bakhita School this year and subsequent boundary changes at BDM, we are still very near capacity, which means that class sizes at some grade levels are large, but not unmanageable. We expect a bit of change as some families move away, and others move into the neighbourhood. Class size AVERAGES are below:

PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME			MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME		
Class	Total	Class Avg	Class	Total	Class Avg
Kindergarten	75	19	Grade Six	107	27
Grade One	57	19	Grade Seven	95	32
Grade Two	74	25	Grade Eight	102	26
Grade Three	82	27	Grade Nine	115	29
Grade Four	83	28	Total MYP	418	
Grade Five	87	29			
Total PYP	452		Total Enrolment	877	

Office Hours

Our school office is open from 8:15 AM to 4:00 PM.

Parents who call the school after these hours are asked to leave a clear message and we will return your call as soon as we are able to. Parents are asked to enter absence information through PowerSchool.

Please remember that we will be happy to give your child a message at the end of the day or at breaks in instructional time, such as recess or lunch. We thank you for your understanding of our wanting to protect learning time for all students by not interrupting classes for messages.



School Hours for 2025-2026

Kindergarten (No instruction on Thursdays)	
Half Day AM	8:39 AM – 11:43 AM
Half Day PM	12:16 – 3:20 PM



Kindergarten Additional Instruction

In order to ensure that kindergarten students receive the required 475 instructional hours over the course of the year, they will have kindergarten classes on Thursdays following some long weekends. The schedule for Thursday kindergarten classes is:

October 2, 2025

October 16, 2025

November 13, 2025

February 19, 2026

April 9, 2026

May 14, 2026

May 21, 2026



Unfortunately, there is no transportation for kindergarten students on Thursdays.

School Hours for 2025-2026

Gr 1-5 Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri

Registration	8:45 AM
Instruction	8:45 – 10:15 AM
Recess	10:15 – 10:28 AM
Instruction	10:28 AM – 12:00 PM
Lunch Recess	12:00 – 12:20 PM
Lunch	12:20 – 12:43 PM
Instruction	12:43 – 3:25 PM
Note: PM instruction includes a 5 minute health break	



Gr 1-5 Thursday

Registration	8:45 AM
Instruction	8:45 – 10:15 AM
Recess	10:15 – 10:28 AM
Instruction	10:30 AM – 12:15 PM



School Hours for 2025-2026

Gr 6-9 Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri

Registration	8:45 AM
Instruction	8:45 – 10:32 AM
Locker Break	10:32 – 10:38 AM
Instruction	10:38 AM – 12:15 PM
Lunch	12:15 – 12:34 PM
Lunch Recess	12:34 – 12:53PM
Instruction	12:58 – 3:25 PM

Gr 6-9 Thursday

Registration	8:45 AM
Instruction	8:45 – 10:32 AM
Locker Break	10:32 – 10:38 AM
Instruction	10:38 AM – 12:15 PM



Revised Schedules – Gr 1 - 9

Over the course of the year, we lose some instructional time on Mondays due to long weekends. In order to make up lost time and to ensure that we have consistent hours of instruction for all subject areas in grades 1 - 9, we will run Monday schedules on the following days:

Wednesday, October 1, 2025	Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Friday, November 14, 2025	



Please mark your calendars!

Entrance Procedures

Elementary (Gr 1 - 6)

The outside bell rings at 8:40 AM. At this time, students are asked to line up in homeroom groupings in their designated spots and wait for their teacher to escort them into the building. In the event of inclement or extremely cold weather, students will be allowed into the school upon arrival, where they will quickly remove coats and footwear, then make their way directly to their homeroom classroom.

Afternoon instruction includes a 5 minute health break for students in grades 1 – 5. Gr 6 students follow the JH schedule.

Junior High (Gr 7 - 9)

Students in grades 7 – 9 may enter the building starting at 8:25, when supervision begins. Students are to make their way directly to their homeroom classroom.



Visitors and Volunteers

For the safety of our students, the doors to the school remain locked during the school day. In keeping with our district Occupational Health and Safety requirements, all visitors and volunteers must report to the office, review the safety guidelines for the school, sign in, and receive a visitor's badge. Everyone must sign out in the office as well.

Bishop David Motiuk, like all schools in ECSD, complies with our division-wide volunteer administrative procedures. Some of the key points in the procedures include:

1. All volunteers shall be required to complete a "Volunteer Registration Form" annually and prior to commencing any volunteer activities in the school.



Visitors and Volunteers



2. All volunteers who are to be assisting with school activities on any given day shall register at the school office at the beginning of each day. School staff shall be instructed that a volunteer register or log shall be kept and made available to the school principal at all times. The volunteer register shall contain legible names of the volunteers and their expected location or classroom assignment during the course of their duties during the day.
3. While engaged in volunteer activities, all volunteers shall wear appropriate identification.

In keeping with division policy, we will be asking all parents who have not yet done so to complete the volunteer registration form. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

Visitors and Volunteers

Please note: any parents or community members who are supervising children in situations where a staff member is not present, such as coaching a sports team, must have a criminal record check and a child welfare check on file with the school. Police Information Checks and/or Intervention Record Checks may also be required at the sole discretion of the Principal, the Superintendent of Learning Services, School Operations Services and/or the Superintendent in any circumstances where it is deemed appropriate.



Cubbies, Lockers, Backpacks and Valuables

- Students in K-5 are assigned hallway cubbies. Coats and backpacks are stored in hallway cubbies. Students are reminded to leave valuables at home, since the school cannot guarantee security for these items.
- Students who are assigned lockers are reminded to lock their lockers during the day.
- The school cannot take responsibility for lost items and may not investigate when things go missing.
- Please remember, as per Alberta legislation and school policy, cell phones are not permitted in classrooms during the school day. These devices are brought at the student's own risk.



Sacramental Preparation

Is your child in grade two or up? If so, it might be time to start thinking about preparing for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Students in grade 6 and up who have received First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion may start preparing for Confirmation.

Sacramental preparation is done through the parishes. Please check with your parish for information. Registration is usually completed in September for fall classes.



Sacramental Preparation

Annunciation Parish

Address: 9420 – 163 Street

Phone: 780-484-6534

Email: Annunciation.Edm@caedm.ca

Pastor: Fr. Francis Mariappa



Sacramental Preparation

Good Shepherd Parish

Address: 18407 – 60 Avenue

Phone: 780-487-7765

Email: GoodShepherd.edm@caedm.ca

Pastor: Fr. Mirek Kostarzewski



Sacramental Preparation

St. John the Evangelist Parish

Address: 9850 148 St NW

Phone: 780-452-3988

Email: sje@caedm.ca

Pastor: Fr. Dean Dowle

Pastoral Assistant: Sophie Ogle

Please see the Sacraments page of the parish website for more information:

<https://stjohnevangelist.edm.caedm.ca/Sacraments>



BDM Spirit Wear

BDM Spirit Wear is back! We are happy to be sending you the link to our BDM Spirit Wear (which is optional) for this school year. We do have some sample sizes in the office if you are unsure as to sizing. These will also be available for you to look at during our Meet the Staff Evenings.

The on-line store will be open from Tuesday, September 2 until Monday, October 6 and we have been advised that delivery will be sometime early to mid November. Please see the link to the online store:

<https://bishopdavidmotiukfall25.itemorder.com/>



Pull Tabs for Wheelchairs

Don't know what to do with pull tabs from drink cans? Collect them and bring them to school! We are pleased to support the Knights of Columbus pull tab campaign. The aluminum in the pull tabs is used toward providing wheelchairs for people who need them. As you can imagine, it takes thousands upon thousands of pull tabs to make just one wheelchair...so please drop them off whenever you can.



Academic Information



Textbooks & Resources



- Most textbooks used at Bishop David Motiuk are digital and are accessed by students through their Chromebooks. Access codes for e-texts will be provided for students in the first week of school.
- Print resources are bar-coded and are issued to students as needed. This allows us to keep track of books issued to students. The condition of print resources is also monitored. Students are responsible for any print resources issued to them. Since replacement costs for some print resources are over \$100.00, students are urged to take very good care of them.

Student Led Conferences and Report Cards

Student-led conferences and report cards for this school year are scheduled for:

- Student Led Conferences: November 27, 2025
- Mid-term Report Card: January 30, 2026
- Student Led Conferences: March 19, 2026
- Final Report Card: June 23, 2026



If you wish to discuss your child's progress or marks, please feel free to call or email the school.

As always, if you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact the school office and we will be happy to assist you.

My Child's Learning

- Alberta Education publishes [My Child's Learning](#) as a means of providing parents with an in-depth look at the subjects and programs available from kindergarten to senior high school. Click on the “Customize My Printout” button to access information about Catholic education.



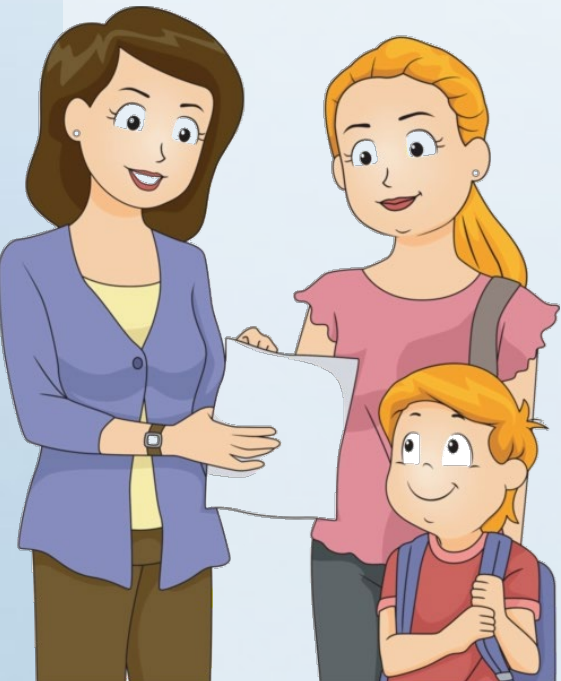
Tips for Parents

- As the new school year begins, it is important to remember that students who experience success in school are diligent and conscientious in their approach to school work. There are a number of ways that parents can help their children as they prepare for the start of the new school year:
- Talk with your children about the school day. Use questions such as “How was your day?” “Tell me all about it.” “Do you have homework?” “What is your homework?” “What was the best part of your day?” “Who did you sit with for lunch?”
- If your children have recess, try these questions: “Who did you play with?” “What did you play?” These are just ideas for starting the conversation each day. Soon your children will start the conversation themselves. If you can initiate the conversation as soon as you see your children each day, it will become part of a daily, “scheduled” event.



Tips for Parents

- Get to know your child's teachers. Children notice when their parents and teachers talk!
- Check on the academic progress of your children. Start early! Parents can use PowerSchool to access their child's marks and assignments in a secure online environment. Information about assignments and activities is available in Google classrooms. Google classrooms also serve as an important communication tool between parents and teachers. Parents are urged to check Google classrooms regularly.
- Read the monthly newsletter and check our website often. The newsletter includes information that can answer many questions you may have, and it will alert you to upcoming events. The newsletter is posted online on the first school day of each month that we are in session. Dates and upcoming events are listed in the newsletter and posted on our website. For those parents who are subscribed to School Messenger, an email message is sent to parents when the newsletter has been posted to our website.
- Please feel free to contact the school should you require clarification about anything.



PowerSchool Applications





PowerSchool

Parents at Bishop David Motiuk are encouraged to use [PowerSchool](#) to monitor their child(ren)'s progress at school. For junior high parents, PowerSchool enables them to monitor attendance on a class-by-class basis, find out what homework assignments will be, confirm that students have submitted homework or assignments and view their child's grades as they exist in the teacher's gradebook at any given time. PowerSchool also allows parents to register to receive alert notifications, review daily comments from teachers and much more. For elementary parents, PowerSchool allows them to sign up for alert notifications and attendance information.

Parents are able to enter their child's absences into PowerSchool. PowerSchool is also the vehicle used for payment of school fees, field trips and purchases such as Chromebooks.

Note: PARENTS MUST HAVE A POWERSCHOOL ACCOUNT TO ACCESS STUDENT REPORT CARDS, PAY SCHOOL FEES AND ENTER STUDENT ABSENCES.

Entering Absence Information



With the sheer number of students at our school, it can take a few hours for office staff to go through phone messages regarding student absences. Our telephone system only allows one person to listen to messages at a time. This sometimes results in call-outs, even though parents have left messages, simply because staff have not had the chance to listen to all of the messages before the call-outs begin.

Parents, please help us by entering attendance information for your children directly in PowerSchool. Simply open PowerSchool, click on Attendance Request, and follow the instructions at the top of that page.

This is a quick and easy way to let the school know that your child will be away. Thank you!

Updating Registration Information



Student records in ECSD are digitized. Parents are able to view registration information and update it online. Parents are asked to check this information over carefully and make any necessary changes. We also ask that parents of students who are of First Nations, Metis or Inuit descent identify this on the registration forms. In some cases, this enables us to access additional support for students. It is extremely important that we have accurate information regarding our students in the event of an emergency. Parents and students using Chromebooks and/or other personal computing devices at school must also review the Bishop David Motiuk Student-Owned Devices Policy in our [School Handbook](#).

School Central App



The **School Central App** is an easy way to access school-related information and keep you updated on your child's academic journey. Use the app to

- ✓ Stay informed about your child's progress by viewing grades and upcoming assignments.
- ✓ View attendance records so you're always aware of their presence at school.
- ✓ Track your child's bus schedule, with details on bus routes and history.
- ✓ Set notifications to get alerts about arrival and departure times.

The app is constantly evolving, with more features to come, ensuring you are always informed and in control, providing a seamless way to stay engaged in your child's education.

Please see the [School Central App Guide](#) for more information.



Transportation and Traffic Safety



Yellow Busses

Parents of students who will be taking the yellow school bus are asked to carefully review and discuss the [Student Transportation Manual](#) with their children. It is important that children clearly understand the Safety Rules and Procedures for riding the bus, such as what stop to get off at; what to do if the bus doesn't come; how to behave near the danger zone. Yellow bus service is available for students living within our boundary area and outside of the 2 km "walk zone." The Edmonton Transit System is available for other students. For consistency, eligibility is determined using distances calculated through Google Maps.



Bus Expectations

In order to load busses in a timely fashion, students in K-3 will line up in the gymnasium prior to being escorted to their busses. This practice greatly speeds up students getting on school busses and on their way home.

If your child usually rides the yellow school bus and will not be riding the bus home on a particular day, please inform the school. Attendance is taken as students load busses and knowing which students will not be riding on any given day saves time and helps keep busses on schedule.

Students in kindergarten and grade 1 must be met at their stop by a parent or guardian. If no one is present to meet the bus, the child is returned to the school and parents must make arrangements to pick up.

Please note:

The Edmonton Transit System allows the holder of an ETS bus pass to utilize Edmonton Transit any time throughout the week, including weekends.

SCHOOL START-UP – SEPTEMBER 2025

The following safety measures are in place for all Edmonton Catholic Schools yellow bus routes:

Code RED – All carriers have agreed to implement a code red system that requires dispatch to answer a Code RED call from a bus driver as a priority. Code RED is defined as, “any time a situation arises and a driver’s ability to safely drive is compromised.”



Bus Expectations

Oversize Items

Oversize items on a school bus can become a safety hazard if the bus has to stop suddenly or is involved in a collision. To ensure student safety, the division has implemented the following guidelines:

Maximum size limit for large items: 13" wide x 13" deep x 30" high or 33cm wide x 33cm deep x 76cm high

Guidelines:

1. The item must be in a backpack, closed bag or carrying case.
 2. The item must fit on the child's lap or between their legs on the floor of the school bus.
 3. Items placed on the floor must not extend past the child's chest area.
 4. Items cannot block aisles or emergency exits.
- Notices – Information on oversize items is on large easy-to-read stickers that are clearly displayed on yellow school buses. Bus drivers will also retain a copy of these guidelines on the bus and the information has been posted on the division website
 - Drivers have been instructed that they cannot refuse transportation to a child even if the child shows up at the bus stop with an oversize item that exceeds the maximum limits. In this situation, drivers will stow the item as safely as possible. Once the bus arrives at the school, the driver will advise the school supervisor that the student has an oversize item and remind the school that the driver will not allow the oversize item back on the bus. The school must make arrangements with parents to transport the oversize item.



Transportation Fee Schedule

Transportation Service	Monthly Fee
All students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 who access Edmonton Transit service.	\$60
All students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 who access regular yellow bus service.	\$50
All students from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 who access specialized services who are unable to use regular yellow bus or ETS	\$0



As of September 2025, the division will no longer be utilizing yellow bus passes.

ETS Arc card: the replacement fee is \$6.00. A new card must be purchased through the student's school. Arc cards purchased externally cannot be used for youth pass payment reloads.

Bus Delays

Busses may be delayed for a variety of reasons. Please download the Bus Finder App so that you are up to date with regard to possible delays. Information about the Bus Finder App is on our division website:

<https://www.ecsd.net/yellow-bus-delays>



Camera Surveillance Equipment



Edmonton Catholic Schools operates video surveillance equipment on approximately 45% of our bus routes. The equipment is assigned to longer bus routes and bus routes that have had a history of issues. If, at any time throughout the year, principals want a particular bus route to have video surveillance equipment, they may contact Transportation Services and arrangements can be made to have the video surveillance equipment available for that route.

Student Pick Ups and Drop Offs



Many parents choose to drive their children to school. Our school population is very high and traffic in the neighbourhood is extremely congested. Due to the number of busses, day care vans and staff vehicles we have, our school parking and drive through areas are closed to parent traffic between the hours of 8:00 AM – 3:45 PM (or when the busses leave).

This is the case in most schools and is much safer for students. The area between the wrought iron fences is set aside for day care vans and staff parking. Staff vehicles also park in the staff parking area. Yellow school busses drop students off directly in front of the school.

Persons with disabilities who will be leaving their vehicle to meet younger children (K-3) at their doors may park in stalls designated for persons with disabilities. A placard for persons with disabilities must be displayed. Persons with disabilities who are picking up older children are asked to park on the street or in a prearranged spot in the neighbourhood where children can meet them.

Student Pick Ups and Drop Offs



Again, traffic right around drop off and dismissal time is very congested. Some parking is available on Lewis Greens Drive and the stretch right in front of the school is a loading zone. In order to lessen traffic in the neighbourhood, families that qualify for bussing are encouraged to arrange for bus transportation for their children. Younger children can be met at their stops. Parents may also wish to drop their children off at the far side of the school field and have them walk from there. Parents wishing to wait at the doors with children may have to park a block or two away and walk to the school. Although brisk walking is good exercise and helps to get our brain cells working well, it is important to dress for the weather. Parents are asked to make sure that children are dressed for the weather at all times. We ask that everyone be patient and keep the safety of our students at the forefront.

All entry doors to the school are locked at 9:00 AM. Doors are monitored until then. Students arriving after 9:00 are asked to go to the front door of the school and ring the buzzer for entry. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us to keep our students safe.

Safety Patrols



Our new and eager grade six crew of AMA safety patrollers will soon be ready to go! Our patrollers use the point, pause, and proceed technique. This technique models what every pedestrian should do when crossing the street and is a much simpler procedure for school patrollers.

The primary role of AMA School Safety Patrollers is to assist younger students to cross the street — not to direct traffic. Patrollers will now extend their arm to indicate pedestrians want to cross the street and will only extend their stop sign when it is safe to cross their fellow classmates. It would be greatly appreciated if parents could assist our patrollers by exercising extreme caution when approaching the intersections in front of the school.

Thank you for your cooperation. Let's make this a safe and successful year for our children!

Slow Down for School Zones



At Edmonton Catholic Schools, the health and safety of students is always our first priority! School zones are in effect around elementary and junior high schools throughout Edmonton. The speed limit (photo enforced) on Lewis Greens Drive (in front of our school) is 30 km/hour between 7:30 AM and 9:00 PM. Please slow down and ensure the safety of all students!

School Fees and Purchasing Information



School Fees



School fees are due in October. School fees are directed toward items such as software subscriptions and consumable items for students including supplies for junior high complementary courses such as foods, woodworking or art, and activities such as school events and fun days. Music students have an additional charge for mouthpieces/reeds. Every effort has been made to keep school fees as reasonable as possible.

We recognize that payment of fees can be difficult, especially for those parents who have a number of children returning to school. We happily accept Visa and Mastercard for payment of school fees. Fees may be paid online through PowerSchool. Parents who are unfamiliar with making payments through PowerSchool are invited to contact our school office for assistance.

School fees have been posted to our website: [BDM School Fees 2025-2026](#)

Chromebook Purchase Program

It is highly recommended that students in grades four through nine purchase Chromebooks. Most school work is done on Chromebooks and student textbooks and resources are accessed using the Chromebook as well. When they are taken care of, Chromebooks should last for many years.

Chromebooks may be purchased at local stores or through the ECSD Parent Purchase Program through Compugen. Chromebooks purchased through Compugen include a 3 year warranty with accidental damage coverage and come pre-loaded with all required software. Please see the Parent Purchase Program information below for additional information and a link to the Compugen purchase site.

Compugen Parent Purchase Program Information

Currently, all students in grades 4 – 9 have their own Chromebook or similar personal device.



Property Taxes

All property owners are encouraged to examine their Tax Notice to ensure that their support is assigned to Edmonton Catholic Schools. If you own a business or are in a business partnership, please check to see that your taxes are being allocated to our division (partial allocations can also be designated). If there is an error, please contact the City of Edmonton using their 311 number or through email:

taxinquiry@edmonton.ca



Policies, Protocols and Procedures



School Policies and Operating Procedures

- School policies at Bishop David Motiuk are printed in our School Handbook. Policies are reviewed and discussed on an annual basis with the School Council. Many of our school policies are required by the International Baccalaureate. Please take some time to review and familiarize yourselves with our school policies and operating procedures.



Protocol for Parent Concerns

Edmonton Catholic Schools recognizes the freedom of all members of the school community (students, staff, parents and neighbours) to voice their concerns in an appropriate manner to the appropriate school personnel. The principle of “first contact” needs to be followed. This means that the person(s) who have the concern have the responsibility to begin addressing the concern directly with those persons with whom they have the concern before taking their concern elsewhere. Parents who contact school administration prior to speaking with the persons with whom they have a concern will be directed to that person first.

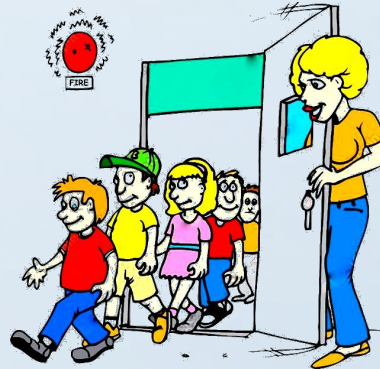
If resolution is not found, please then involve school administration and School Operations Services (SOS) as needed.

All parties will deal with concerns in a manner that is consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.



Safety Drills

- In general, we will be practicing our fire drills in the Fall and Spring. We will practice lockdown and shelter in place procedures in the winter months. These valuable exercises are required so that the staff and students are aware of what the procedures are should one of these events occur. For some of these practices, the students will be aware that they will occur. Other practices will be surprise events. In all cases, the office will make an announcement following the practice.



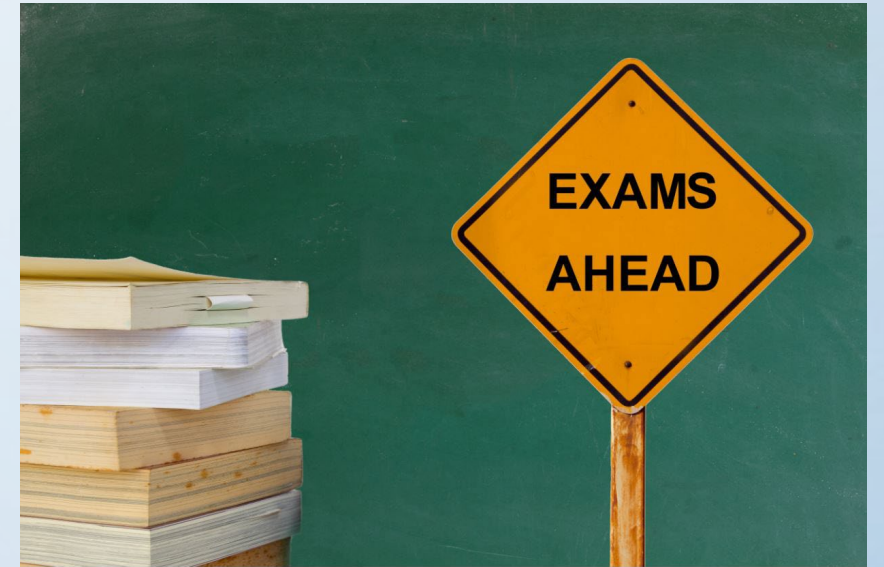
Vacations/Extended Absences

Classrooms today are dynamic learning environments that are fluid and constantly changing. Work assigned is often project-based and is designed to promote critical thinking and a deeper level of student engagement. Worksheets and paper packages of student work are increasingly rare in today's classrooms, since research shows that they do little to promote higher level thinking skills or achievement. Because our learning environments are so dynamic, it can be very difficult for teachers to put together packages for students who will be away for an extended period of time.



Vacations/Extended Absences

Consequently, we recommend that families avoid booking vacation time during the school year. Extended absences are detrimental to student achievement and can have a significant impact on a student's marks. Students in grades six and nine write Provincial Achievement Tests. If these students miss a great deal of school, then they could score lower on these government exams. In the case of a grade nine student, lower achievement could mean that the student does not get into his or her desired academic stream in high school. If a student must be away for a truly important event or family emergency, then parents are asked to contact the teacher to find out what general topics will be examined while the student is away.



Vacations/Extended Absences

The student will be expected to read applicable textbook chapters and monitor work and material being posted to Google classrooms, with the understanding that the student will likely have work to make up when he or she returns to school. Google classrooms do not take the place of the teacher in the classroom environment, so the student may experience some difficulty in keeping up with assignments in classes, particularly if the absence is a longer one.



Vacations/Extended Absences

It is the responsibility of the student to see each of his or her teachers to find out what work was missed during an absence and to complete all missed work, assignments and/or exams.

Note: Our school social worker will follow up with the families of students who are habitually late or chronically absent. Absences may be reported to the Attendance Board.



Personal Property/Electronic Devices

Students are responsible for all personal property, including electronic devices. All personal items should be clearly marked with the student's name. This makes it much easier to return items to students if they are misplaced and reduces the number of items collected - and often not claimed - in our Lost and Found bins. Students should never leave money and valuables unattended. The school cannot be responsible for damage or loss and we do not investigate in the event that these items go missing.



Illness and Recess

We have always taken the position that students who are ill should not be at school. We understand that sometimes parents find it easier to send a child to school if he or she exhibits cold or flu symptoms rather than arranging for child-care. Children who exhibit maladies such as severe cold, flu, or headache symptoms are unable to function well at school. In addition, they provide a source of infection for other children and would likely recuperate faster if kept at home. We ask that parents keep their children at home if they are ill. We will continue to contact parents if their children are ill at school. Please ensure that student emergency contact information is up-to date in the event that parents cannot be reached. Thank you!



Medical Alerts

- Upon occasion, parents request that staff members administer medication to students who are not sufficiently mature or reliable enough to care for their own needs. In order to administer medication to a student, we require a “Request for Administration of Medication/Medical Treatment Form” be completed and on file in the office. Please contact the school office if you need to have this form emailed to you. It is the parents’ responsibility to keep us informed of medical conditions and to provide correct information regarding treatment and emergency contact information.



On Campus Policy

Bishop David Motiuk School has an on-campus policy for students over the noon hour. We are concerned with the safety of our students during the school day and it is difficult to properly supervise them if they leave the school grounds. As well, the allotted time for students between morning and afternoon classes is short and unless your son or daughter lives very close to the school, he or she would not have time to get home and return to school for afternoon classes. A few reminders for parents:

- For those who live within easy walking distance of the school, permission for your son/daughter to go home at lunch must be in writing and on file in the school office.
- Please do not send notes giving your child(ren) permission to leave the school grounds to go to the nearby shopping centers or to another student's home at lunch time. They will not be honored.
- Parents who wish to take their children out for lunch must come to the school office and sign their children out.



Litterless Lunch

Did you know that over the course of one year, a typical student sends the equivalent of their own body weight in waste to a landfill just from conventionally packed school lunches? The amount of food waste generated over one lunch hour at school is truly staggering! Students often throw items that they do not like away. As well, organic waste, such as apple cores and banana peels, can attract stinging insects, which can pose a danger. Single use plastics are often not recyclable and end up in landfills.

Bishop David Motiuk school is committed to reducing waste. In an effort to cut down on food and plastic waste, we will be asking students to pack uneaten food items, recyclables and waste back in their lunch boxes to be disposed of at home. To facilitate this, students are asked to pack their lunches in sealed reusable containers so uneaten food can be sent home in the same container. This way, parents are aware of exactly what their children are eating at school and we are reducing waste at the same time. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!

Please note: **Students are asked NOT to bring microwaveable items to school since students do not have access to microwave ovens at lunch time.** Thank you!



Allergy Aware Policy

We have a number of students with life-threatening allergies to peanuts, nuts and other food products at our school. In some cases, these allergies are so severe that just a trace of or even the smell of peanuts or nut products can send the child into anaphylactic shock. If this happens, the child's throat tightens and swells and he or she may stop breathing. This type of severe allergic reaction can be fatal. The following website has a great deal of helpful information regarding anaphylaxis: <http://www.anaphylaxis.org>.

We strive to keep each of our students safe during the school day. Even though your child may not be in the same class as one of our severely allergic children, there is still the possibility of cross-contamination. If, for example, a child has a peanut butter sandwich for lunch, then touches a handrail while using a staircase, he or she may leave trace amounts of peanut butter on the hand rail. If a severely allergic child used the same handrail, he or she could have a severe allergic reaction. Although we cannot absolutely guarantee that students will not come into contact with nut products or other allergens, we do wish to limit the chances of such an occurrence. Please help us by checking the labels, packages and ingredients of all foods your children bring to school. Please don't let your child bring any foods to school that contain even a trace amount of peanuts or nuts. We truly appreciate your cooperation and help in this important matter.



Lunch Drop Offs

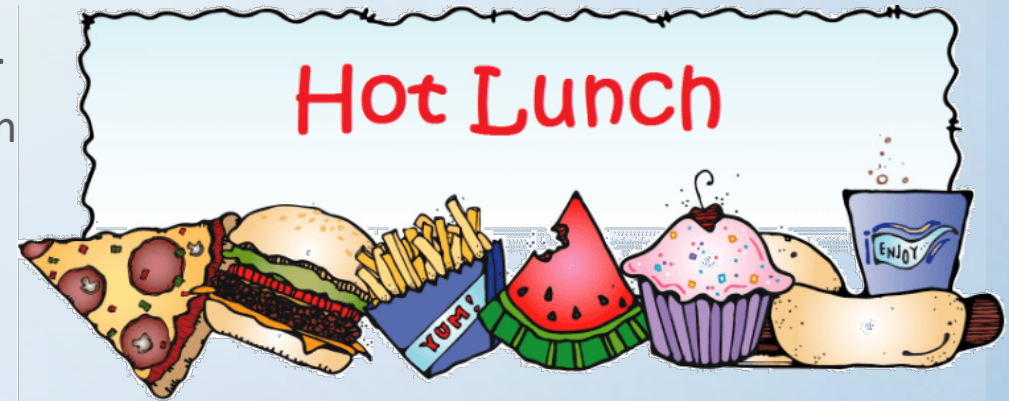
Many of our families like to drop off lunches from area restaurants or utilize food delivery services to provide lunches for students. At times, parents also bring lunches from home for students. Unfortunately, since we have so many students, we are not able to manage lunches that are dropped off for students. It is disruptive to make calls to classrooms to let students know about their lunches and our office staff are not able to manage the volume of calls and coordination necessary to distribute these lunches. **Therefore, we ask parents to plan ahead and make sure to send a lunch with their children each day. Office staff are not able to assist with lunch drop offs.** Students will be able to order through our weekly Hot Lunch program as a treat every now and then.



Hot Lunch Program

Bishop David Motiuk uses Healthy Hunger as our hot lunch organizing service. Hot lunches are offered for students on Fridays, beginning in October and running until the end of May. Our hot lunch providers include Mr. Sub, Booster Juice, Boston Pizza and others. Because our vendors require advance notice, lunch orders must be placed in advance. Once parents sign up for the service, they will receive email notices when new lunch dates are added. Orders are placed and paid for online. The school does not collect money for lunches. Changes to orders, including cancellations, may be made up to five days prior to the hot lunch date. After that time, no changes may be made. If a student is absent or ill on hot lunch day, parents may call the school to make arrangements for pick-up if they wish. Otherwise, the lunch will be donated to someone else.

To create an online account and to view an informative video about the service, please visit the [Healthy Hunger](#) website.



Food at School

One thing the pandemic taught us is to be cautious about sharing food. Many of our students have allergies or sensitivities to various food items and we always want to ensure that we know what the ingredients of a given food item might be.

We understand that families often like to celebrate special occasions such as birthdays with treats or cupcakes. These practices are discouraged, since with large classes, students could be having sugary treats several times over the course of a month. In like manner, families are asked not to purchase lunches for entire classes.

At various times through the school year, students have opportunities to enjoy treats and lunches to mark special occasions and holidays.



Communication



School Messenger

Edmonton Catholic Schools uses a school notification system called School Messenger to keep in contact with our families. This system allows the Division and its schools to quickly send important messages and emergency alerts.

If you would like to make changes to how you receive email messages, please contact the school and we can make changes to your contact information.



SCHOOLMESSENGER®

School Emergencies

In the Edmonton Catholic School Division, the safety of our students is always our first priority and students are well supervised when they are on school property. When situations occur that warrant emergency procedures to ensure the safety of all students, we will provide parents with accurate and up to date information. One way to keep parents informed about an emergency and the safety procedures that have been put into place is by sending text or email messages through School Messenger. Information will be posted and updated as required when a school is experiencing an emergency.

If there is an emergency situation at the school, check the school website to stay informed and receive timely information. We also need to keep phone lines available at the school during an emergency, so we ask that you do not call the school. This will enable staff at the school to keep in touch with emergency providers and District personnel. Thank you for your support and help in ensuring our students remain safe.



School Website

Our school website is full of important information about our school: www.bishopdavidmotiuk.ecsd.net. Content on the website has been organized into four broad categories: About, Programs, Student Life and News. Menus and submenus can be found by clicking on these categories along the top menu bar. Please check the website frequently for updates with regard to news and school events, calendar dates, activities, district events and school council updates.



School Handbook

Bishop David Motiuk publishes a School handbook that provides a great deal of information for parents and students about our school and the practices and procedures we have in place. The Handbook is posted on our website:

[Bishop David Motiuk School Handbook](#)

Please take some time to review the information in our Handbook.



Social Media

Do you wonder about what's going on in classrooms at BDM? Follow us on social media to see what we're up to:

Instagram: bishopdavidmotiukecsd

Facebook: Bishop David Motiuk School ECSD



Upcoming Events



First Day of School

A reminder to families that there is no school on Labour Day – Monday, September 1. The first day of school is Tuesday, September 2. Classes for students in grades 1 – 9 begin at 8:45 AM, with dismissal at 3:25 PM. We will once again provide a hamburger lunch for students in grades 1 – 9 on the first day of school. A limited number of veggie burgers and gluten free buns are available for those requiring them.

Information about staggered entry for kindergarten students has been emailed to families. Information about homerooms and entry procedures for students in grades 1 – 9 will be emailed on Friday, August 29 at 3:00 PM.



Meet the Staff Evening

Our Meet the Staff Evening will take place on Thursday, September 11 at 6:30 PM.

Please mark your calendars.

This event will not only give you a chance to meet our staff and your child(ren)'s teachers; you will also learn about our programs, activities and goals for the upcoming school year.



Soccer Season Begins

Soccer tryouts will be underway right away. Our soccer season begins in the fall for a number of reasons, the most important of which are rain and poor field conditions in the Spring, which could result in games having to be rescheduled and a possible shortened season. Students are welcome to come and try out for either the boys or girls' soccer teams. In early September, students need to pay close attention to announcements for exact times and dates.



School Opening Celebration

Bishop David Motiuk School will mark the beginning of the school year with our school opening celebrations on Thursday, September 4. We are not able to accommodate all of our students in the gymnasium, so some classes will be in the gym and others will view the celebration via livestream. The celebration will begin at 9:00 AM. Parents are welcome to join us.



School Professional Development Day

Thursday, September 18 is a professional development day for staff at Bishop David Motiuk. This will be a staff retreat focusing on the Jubilee Year and our Archdiocesan Pastoral Priorities led by Bishop David, Fr. Paul Kavanagh and other guests. There is no school for students on September 18.



School Council Annual General Meeting

The School Council is a collective association of parents, teachers, principal, staff and community representative(s) whose purpose is to advise the principal and the board respecting matters relating to the school. It is a means for parents and community members to work together with the school to support and enhance student learning.

The primary role of school council members is to work together with school personnel to create a strong learning environment, within the context of our Catholic identity, for all students enrolled in the school. School council members typically advise the principal on areas such as school planning, budgeting, school fees, communications, community relations, programming, and the School Plan for Continuous Growth.

Parents who would like to be more involved in their child's education and in the decision-making process at the school are invited to attend the School Council meetings.



School Council Annual General Meeting

The first School Council meeting of the year, which is also our Annual General Meeting, will be held on Wednesday, September 24 at 6:00 PM in our Learning Commons. This will be a hybrid meeting, with a Teams link available for parents who are unable to attend in person. Parents who would like to be sent the Teams link are asked to email [Mr. Edwards](#).

In accordance with our School Council Operating Procedures, Executive members of the School Council must be elected or re-elected on an annual basis. Consequently, elections for the following positions will be held at the Annual General Meeting: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary.

Subsequent meeting dates will be determined by the School Council at the first meeting. Typically, the School Council meets every other month, with meetings in September, November, January, March, and May. The School Council Operating Procedures are posted to the School Council page of our website.



School Council Annual General Meeting

- The current School Council Executive is:
- Chair: Aman Rana
- Vice Chair: Dwayne Vodden
- Secretary: Jenn Pino-Willock



LF Fundraising Association

Our school's Fundraising Association (LF Catholic School Fundraising Association) meeting will follow our School Council meeting.

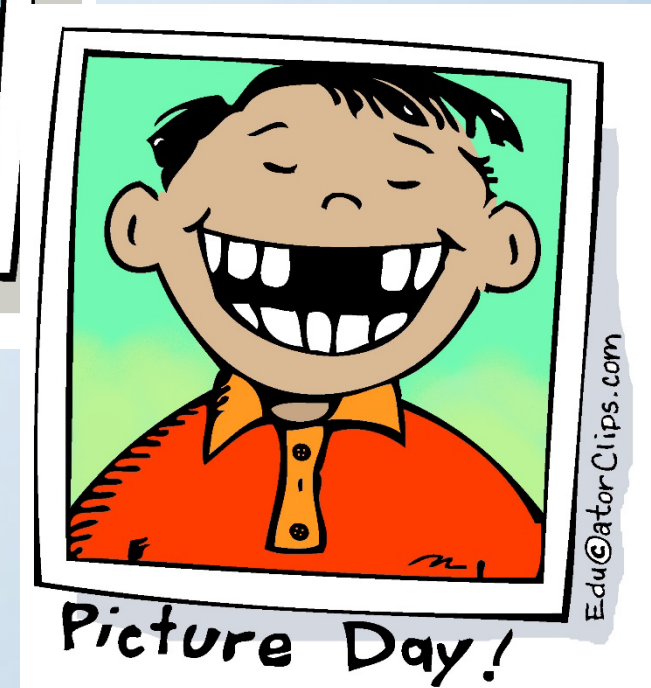
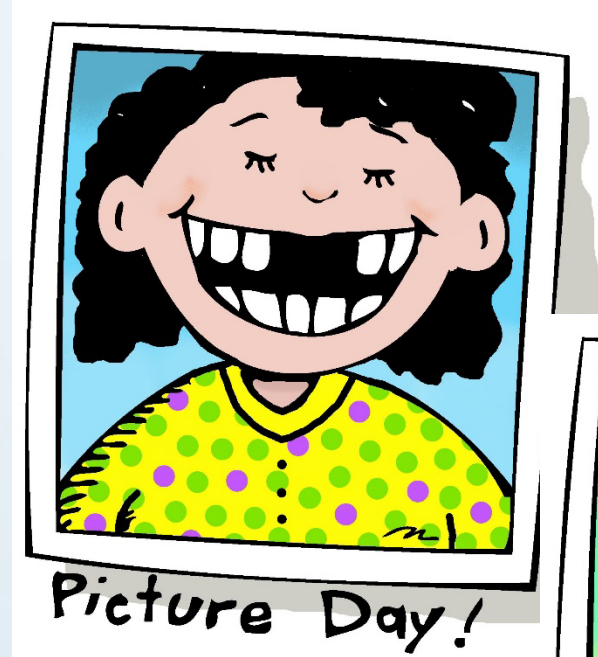
Elections will be held at this meeting as well. The current executive for the fundraising committee is:

Chair:	Jennalea Krawchuk
Vice Chair:	April Bernath
Secretary:	Jenn Pino-Willock
Treasurer:	Richard Carr



School Picture Day

We will be using Lifetouch for our school pictures again this year. School pictures will be taken on Friday, September 19. Please mark your calendars!



Truth and Reconciliation Day/Orange Shirt Day

Students are invited to wear orange shirts on Monday, September 29 to commemorate Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day. Tuesday, September 30 is the national holiday. This day provides an opportunity to reflect upon the difficult legacy of residential schools throughout Canada and stand against racism and injustice.

We will mark Monday, September 29 with a prayer service in recognition of the injustices and abuses suffered by our First Nation, Metis and Inuit peoples.

Please note: **There is no school on Tuesday, September 30 in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day.**





BISHOP DAVID MOTIUK

CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop David Motiuk Catholic Elementary and Junior High School

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