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# Bowden Grandview School

Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73

2238-21 Ave • Bowden, Alberta • T0M 0K0  
Phone: (403) 224-3422 • Fax (403) 224-2767

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January 29, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As second semester gets underway in our Bowden Grandview school community, I wanted to touch base with you about our high school course offerings.

Being a small high school in one of the largest rural school divisions in the province can present both opportunities and challenges. We are proud that we are able to provide all of our students with access to all core high school courses, however our student numbers require us to be creative at times in how these classes are delivered.

In our efforts to provide every opportunity to students at the high school level, at times we have combined classes so that a teacher will have 'dash one' and 'dash two', or another variation of students, together. Or courses such as Chemistry and Physics may 'cycle' on a schedule that provides one of the courses per year, allowing every student access during their time in high school. These creative methods to provide access to all core courses is common at other small high schools in Chinook's Edge and throughout the province.

Option courses, such as Math 31, are challenging to offer, as we often have only two or three students choosing to take the course. This level of programming is generally required only by a small handful of students, which creates a financial challenge to our ability to offer it. We have patterned our offering of Math 31 after other small high schools in our division, where the Math 31 option is 'cycled' every two years. Providing Grade 11 students the choice to join Grade 12 students in the Math 31 option this semester will allow our students access to the course during their time in high school. This cycling also provides grade 11 students an opportunity to explore academic grade 12 math in a low risk environment.

At Bowden Grandview School, we pride ourselves on being flexible, creative and responsive when meeting the needs of our students. This way, we can offer all core high school courses, along with many of the CTS and option courses traditionally available only at much larger schools. Our students receive all the benefits of learning in small class sizes, while accessing all of the core courses in the high school curriculum.

We believe strongly in the quality learning that is taking place at Bowden Grandview, and look forward to Semester II.

Yours truly,

Jeff Thompson  
Principal