

James Fowler High School

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<http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b825>

Newsletter | August 2018

Principal's Message

Students, Parents and Guardians,

Welcome

As you read this newsletter, I hope that all of you are still enjoying the beautiful days of summer and that you are having fun making memories with your families and friends. The staff of James Fowler has planned a year full of exciting, productive and engaging school experiences, both in and out of the classroom, with the wish that all students will take advantage of all the wonderful academic and social opportunities that our school community has to offer.

September is an exciting and busy time at James Fowler High School as we focus on the start of the first semester. Teachers offer students a full range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities through study opportunities, clubs, fine and performing arts, volunteerism, athletics and curriculum-based clubs and activities. Whether students are new to grade ten, new to James Fowler or continuing in grade eleven and twelve, I encourage all students to get involved in the community of the school and become involved in as many activities as possible. Students, challenge yourself to meet new friends, help others whenever possible, enjoy learning with fellow students in different ways and above all, become a leader in the school community.

This year at James Fowler we will have a school population of approximately 750 students. We are fortunate to be in one of the largest buildings and be able to offer students such a wide variety of courses.

New at James Fowler

New this fall will be the addition Chinook Learning Services occupying one wing of the school on the main floor of James Fowler. Chinook Learning Services offers academic upgrading to 16-19 year olds who have previously attended a CBE high school. Chinook Learning students will not be a part of the regular high school and will also have different start and end times for classes in the morning, afternoon and evening.

This fall we will see the end of our modernization project with the completion of our Cosmetology, Foods, Fashion and Robotics facilities, along with our new Paced-Learning Program (PLP IV) room. We will also have new washrooms on the second floor. Our Library will receive a new door to our outdoor green space where students can enjoy sitting outdoors in the courtyard. Already completed are facilities for Automotives, Autobody,





Programming

We will continue to offer students courses to meet their individual learning needs and interests. We offer Alternative programs such as Arts-Centred Learning (meeting course outcomes through an arts-based focus) and Advanced Placement. Our Advanced Placement program continues to attract many students who wish more academic rigor while completing the core high school curriculum. We are also pleased to continue to offer a full range of core and option Knowledge and Employability courses for students in all grades. Our English Language Learning courses are comprehensive and students have the opportunity to take courses leading to a high school diploma. Students can choose courses from a wide array of academic, Career and Technology Studies (CTS), Fine and Performing Arts and option courses.

Student timetables can be picked up during the Fast Track Registration held on August 27 and 28 for grades 10, 11 and 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the main gymnasium. During this time students may pick up timetables and your picture can be taken for the James Fowler identification card and optional photo package. When you read your timetables, you may notice courses different than those you had previously chosen during the registration process in the spring. Throughout the course scheduling process, your course requests were hopefully met, however, not all students are able to receive all of their “first” requests due to courses being at capacity. During the first week in September, only core course changes will be made for students not having course prerequisites and for students who have successfully passed courses in Summer School. Changes to Career and Technology Studies (CTS) courses and Option courses will not be made as students have received their course choices in the order of availability in the scheduling process.

Communication

Parents and Guardians, you are all important members of the James Fowler learning community and we will keep you informed of all pertinent information to help your children achieve success. We value meaningful communication and during the school year we will commit to keeping you informed through the following ways:

- newsletters posted on the school website in addition to paper copies available in the main office
- email communication for newsletters and progress reports for your child provided you send us your email address
- personal telephone calls and broadcast phone messages
- student/parent/teacher conferences
- PowerSchool (new home marks access system to be implemented)
- notices posted on the school website at www.cbe.ab.ca/b825

Our research on effective communication has shown that email still remains to be an effective means to communicate as the majority of parents and





guardians check their smart phones on a regular basis. We have found that receiving an evening phone call from our automated system, although effective for some, is not effective for others because of the time of the received message. Parents and Guardians, please send us your email address or let us know if you have an updated address. Also, our Assistant Principals will be communicating your child's progress or issues that may arise with your children by calling or emailing you. Our goal is to have an effective way to communicate about your children.

Our School Council provides an excellent opportunity for parents and guardians to learn about the school and to have a voice in the education of your children. School Council meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the library conference room. Please join us for our first meeting and Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, October 16. We welcome new members throughout the year.

School Focus

As the Principal of James Fowler High School, I am looking forward to the upcoming school term and look forward to serving the school community by helping every student achieve success in many different ways. Our focus will be improving engagement with students through learning in different ways. With the support of our teachers we will look at "task design and analysis" and explore the work that students complete in courses and find ways to make learning more relevant and rigorous for students. We also have a goal to improve school completion rates and increase all achievement scores across every subject. We will continue to encourage our students to be leaders in the school community and we will strive to have our leadership group take on more responsibility within the school. We value the input and leadership of our students and feel that their voice is important in making our school a more dynamic place for all to learn and grow.

Staffing Update

This year we welcome a new Assistant Principal, Ryan Emond, who was recently at Nelson Mandela High School. Ryan's recent experience involved System leadership in the area of CTS and coordinating Industry partnerships with schools. Allison Field will be moving to Captain Nicola Goddard School. Allison Field has been an Assistant Principal at James Fowler for the past three years and contributed immensely to our school community. Both Chad Flaman and Ryan Emond will support your children and help you stay current with their progress and needs.

Constable Graham, School Resource Officer, left our school in April to pursue other career opportunities. Constable Graham was a dedicated and committed officer and leader who not only focused on the safety and security for our school community, but also worked with students to help them be committed citizens by making good decisions. We will miss having Constable Graham here this year. We will be receiving a new School Resource Officer and we will communicate to you his name once confirmed by the Calgary Police Service.





I welcome all students, parents and guardians to contact me or visit the school either to have a conversation about your child or communicate to me a concern you would like addressed. Please also contact our Assistant Principals if you have any questions for them. I am very proud of our staff (teachers, support staff and facility operators) who are here to help your children be successful during their years of high school. James Fowler High School is a “great place to learn.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KJ', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Keith Johnson, Principal

New Registration

The school will open for intake appointments for NEW students to James Fowler starting August 27. Please call the Guidance office at (403)230-4743 extension 2012 starting August 27 to book an appointment. Please note our school is closed over the summer.

Fast Track Registration, August 27 and Aug 28

Please come anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on either August 28 or 29. Students are expected to pre-register prior to the first day of school. Pre-registration includes:

- paying fees
- taking yearbook and school I.D. card photos
- lanyard and photo order package
- picking up timetables
- If you pay it online, please pay prior to the fast track day and bring a receipt with you in order to go straight to the express lane. If you would like to pay by cash, visa or debit on the fast track day, please print and bring a fee sheet <http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b825/aboutUs/schoolFees.html>

Timetable Changes

After completing the fast track registration process, students receive a draft timetable that should be checked for accuracy. If any changes are required, students need to meet with their guidance counsellor at Student Services. Changes will only be considered for lack of prerequisites in academic course streams or changes required due to success in summer school. There will be no changes to option courses. It is suggested that students complete timetable changes on the “Fast Track Registration Day” as they may wait up to one week after school begins.





Orientation Day for Grade 10 students' only, students will attend school from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. James Fowler will be hosting a barbeque lunch for all Grade 10 students.

Grade 11 & 12 students do not attend.

Wednesday, September 5

There will be classes for ALL students from 9:00 a.m. until 3:40 p.m. Students follow their timetable that was picked up during fast track registration. Student MUST GO TO TA on Sept 5 and Sept 6 for addition information.

No Shows

To accommodate students waiting for placement, students who do not show up for classes by September 16 will have their program cancelled. If, under special circumstances, your son or daughter will be arriving after September 7, it is IMPERATIVE that you notify the school to have their program protected.

Life Touch Picture Day

Photographers will be available for student I.D. and yearbook photographs during fast track registration - August 27 and August 28. They will also be available September 4 and September 5. All students will receive a proof of their photo and then have an option to purchase a package. Picture Retake Day is Thursday, October 11.

- The envelope your child will bring home from James Fowler approximately 10 days after photo day will contain your child's proofs and important order information.
- Your completed photo order must be returned to James Fowler by the "IMPORTANT ORDER DUE DATE" stamped in red on the order portion of the form.
- Late orders are to be mailed directly to Lifetouch Canada Inc. or call 1.866.443.9648 to place the order over the phone.

Please contact Lifetouch if you have questions regarding proof order forms and picture packages at 403-255-5440.

Student Parking

Students wishing to park their vehicles in student designated areas on school property must pay a parking permit fee of \$40.00 [cash only] for the year.

You may purchase the parking tag from the Business Office, available while spaces last. This tag hangs on the rear view mirror and must be visible at all times. There are designated areas where students park. Students who park in staff areas will be ticketed and towed. The City of Calgary Parking Control Unit will strictly enforce this and no tickets will be cancelled once they are issued.

Lockers

A school locker and a lock are distributed to each student for storing school related materials. The lock and locker are the property of the school. Each student is responsible to keep his/her locker clean and to remove all contents when requested to do so. School officials reserve the right to inspect lockers at any time. Lockers will be distributed during TA class on the first day of school. Students are expected to remove all items from their lockers by the last day of classes in June. Students will be charged at \$6.50 for a broken or missing lock. Personal locks are not allowed.

Transport Info & Bus Pass Rebates in the Fall





Yellow School Bus Transportation The yellow school bus pre-registration deadline closed on June 11, 2018. Routes for the 2018-19 school year are created over the summer based on the addresses submitted before the cut off date. While CBE Transportation continues to accept registrations, these registrations will not be considered until route changes are done after Thanksgiving. Yellow school bus route maps will be posted by August 13 for modified calendar schools and August 29 for traditional calendar schools on the CBE website: www.cbe.ab.ca/busstop.

In October, a confirmation email will be sent to all parents/guardians who have submitted a pre-registration. It will include transportation fee information and payment options (if applicable). Families can cancel their pre-registration with no financial penalty by responding to the email by October 31, 2018.

More information about 2018-19 transportation service levels and fees are posted on the CBE website: www.cbe.ab.ca/schools/busing-and-transportation/Pages/service-levels-andfees.aspx Conditional riders can also register. . Applications will be considered after eligible rides registrations have been processed. Families are also reminded to keep their ZPass as this is a multi-year pass that will be reactivated and used again next year.

School Fees Waiver

Over the summer, the Calgary Board of Education will implement a new student information system called PowerSchool. The new system will have a parent portal that will allow families to access the services that are currently available through MyCBE Account and Home Logic. It will allow families to track student attendance and grades, as well as register for services and pay fees in one convenient location. More information about the new system will be available starting in August and as the new school year begins.

Each year My CBE Account is unavailable in early July as the system updates information for the next school year. You will not be able to access your account starting at 4 p.m. on June 29 until July 6. After that time, most services will be available until the system is permanently disabled on July 24.

After July 24, parents and guardians will no longer be able to access their My CBE Account.

Online Payment TBA

Further Information

We look forward to a great year ahead. If you have any questions that we haven't addressed here, please contact the school. For further Calgary Board of Education back-to-school information visit

Visiting the School

Dropping off/Picking up Students

Please do not drop off or pick up students in the northwest parking lot (at 40 Ave/4 St NW) as it becomes congested/bottlenecked with traffic. Our 3rd street entrance is a better place to pick up students.

Registering as a Visitor

All parents/visitors to the school must sign in at the main office. If driving, you must indicate the vehicle license number. The parking lots are patrolled by the City of Calgary Parking Authority and vehicles that are not registered will be ticketed. Tickets cannot be cancelled once they are issued.

Graduation Activities

To participate in the Class of 2019 Closing Exercises and Banquet, students will have to be in a program that will lead to their having the full graduation requirements for their program by the end of June. For example, students in a program leading to an Alberta High School Diploma will be required to be in a program that will lead to their having at least 100 credits by the end of June. Any course in which they have a grade below 50% at the second reporting period, or from which they have withdrawn prior to the Closing Exercises, will not count towards this requirement.





School Council News

School council typically meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Our first meeting for the 2018-2019 school year will be on Tuesday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the library conference room at James Fowler High School. This is also our AGM. These meetings provide insight and information into happenings within the school and are an excellent avenue for input from parents.

School Policies

A more complete description of school information, policies and rules can be found in the 2018-2019 Student Handbook on James Fowler website.

Lanyard and Identification Policy

In order to maintain the safety and security of all students and discourage trespassers, all students are provided with and are required to wear a lanyard and ID card at ALL times while on the school property. Each student's timetable is attached to the back of the card. ID cards must be visible at all times. Students who forget their lanyard should immediately proceed to the library and purchase a replacement lanyard and ID tag for \$5. If students are identified by a staff member as having no ID and lanyard, they will be given a school suspension and sent home for the remainder of the day.

Student use of telephones

Cellular Telephones During Class

Students must turn the power off on cellular telephones while in class. Students are not permitted to make or receive telephone calls or to send or receive text messages during class, except with the permission of their teacher. Please help us to protect the importance of the classroom by not attempting to contact your child during the school day. In an emergency, please telephone the school's main office.

During Examinations

Students are not permitted to have a cellular telephone or other electronic communication device (e.g. pager, telephone capable PDA) in their possession during an in-class or final examination.

Outside of Classes

Use of cellular telephones outside of class must not interfere in any way with instruction or the safe and orderly operation of the school.

Consequences

Any teacher who finds a student using a cellular telephone in contravention of the above mentioned expectations will confiscate the telephone in accordance with CBE policy 6014 and the School Act of Alberta. A student who is found with a cellular telephone during an examination may be disqualified from writing the examination and be assigned a grade of zero.

No Smoking Policy

In accordance with CBE Administrative Regulation 6001.9, smoking is not permitted anywhere on the property of James Fowler High School. Any student found smoking on school property will be charged by our School Resource Officer under the Smoke-Free Places Act of Alberta.

Attendance Policy

At James Fowler High School, we believe that excellent attendance is key to a successful high school experience. Absenteeism negatively affects students' academic progress at school. Students who do not attend regularly miss daily instruction, leading to gaps in their learning.

Both the Alberta School Act and the Calgary Board of Education Administrative Regulation 6020 - Attendance of Students reinforces the expectation that our students "attend school regularly and punctually." It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure compliance





with this requirement and the responsibility of schools to ensure that parents/guardians are informed promptly when the attendance is not satisfactory.

Excused Absences and Lates

Parents are required to telephone the school each day their child is unable to attend. An 'excused' absence will then be recorded in the school record system. Under the School Act of Alberta, an absence can be excused only if the student is unable to attend due to (1) illness, (2) unavoidable cause, or (3) a religious holiday observed by the family. It is important for students to understand that this does not excuse them from the work that they miss and they are responsible for working with their teachers to complete missed work immediately upon their return.

Attendance Concerns

After 5 unexcused absences or lates, the classroom teacher will contact home to discuss the concern with the student and inform the Assistant Principal and counsellor.

Period 5 [detention]

Students are required to make up class time they have missed in period 5 [detention]. Period 5 will be offered three days a week to offer flexibility for students' schedules. Period 5 may also be used to assign students time to make up for missing assignments or missing tests.

Should the absences continue, further steps are taken, which include contacting the home, creating an attendance improvement plan, follow-up meetings and could include suspension or course withdrawal.

Truancy/Skipping

Any student found skipping classes will be referred to the student's Assistant Principal. The Assistant Principal will contact the home and a suspension may result. A meeting with the parent, student and the Assistant Principal may be requested. A detailed attendance policy is posted on the James Fowler website at www.cbe.ab.ca/b825.

Automated Phone System Calls

Every evening, the school's computer automated phone system calls the homes of students who have one or more unexcused absences or lates for that day. If you have concerns regarding the phone number we have on file, please contact the Main Office and we will have the message go directly to the phone number of your choice. If you have concerns about your student's attendance, please contact the Main Office. Parents may view their child's attendance on Home Logic. It indicates periods as follows:

Period 5	-	classes before school (music, art etc)
Period 1	-	the first class of the day
Period 2	-	the class just before lunch
Period 6	-	classes at lunch (music, foods etc)
Period 3	-	the class right after lunch
Period 4	-	the last class of the day
Period 7	-	classes after school [music, art etc]
Period 8	-	TA class (homeroom)

Student Dress

Students are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for school. Accessories such as bandanas, gloves and arm bands that can be associated with negative groups are not appropriate at school. Similarly, any accessories that represent a risk to student safety, such as neck collars and chains, are not to be worn at school. Finally, clothing that other students and staff might reasonably find offensive or in poor taste is inappropriate to wear at school.

Confiscated Materials

In accordance with CBE Administrative Regulation 6014, school staff who find a student's use or possession of an item to be interfering with instruction or with the safe and orderly conduct of school, may confiscate the item. This includes iPods and cell phones.





Confiscated drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or weapons will be given to the School Resource Officer. Other items will be turned into the Main Office and be available to the owner at the end of the school day. Students must present valid school identification before an item will be returned.

Student Searches

In accordance with CBE Administrative Regulation 6014, administrators who have reasonable grounds to believe that there has been a breach of school rules or discipline, or that there is a threat to school welfare or safety, may conduct a search of the following:

- students
- school desks, lockers, tote boxes; and school storage areas used by students items belonging to students that are on school property (including backpacks, clothing; and purses); and
- files stored on school computer resources.

Independent Students

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act) of Alberta requires the CBE to disclose information to students who are the age of majority and then only to others with the written consent of the Independent Students.

Students who turn 18 years old during the school year must be recognized and treated as an Independent Student from the date of their 18th birthday. Independent Students maintain all the responsibilities of an adult and cannot transfer these responsibilities to their parent/guardian(s). School must take instructions from the Independent Student for all matters, including but not limited to: consents and waivers, attendance, field trips, suspensions, damage to property, and emergency contacts.

Independent Students may elect to provide written consent to share the right to access information with their parent/guardian(s). This is done by having the Independent Student complete the Release of Independent Student Information form which is available at our main office.

General Media Coverage

Occasionally we receive requests from media representatives to come onto school property to report or record an aspect of the school or its program. We encourage celebration of school achievements with others; however at the same time, we recognize that there are instances where you may not wish your child to be recorded. If this is the case, school staff will involve your child in other activities during the media's attendance.

In cases where the media requests to interview, photograph or profile your child, the principal will seek your written consent in advance of each media request. If you choose not to consent, no such interview will take place.

The CBE cannot prevent media outlets from photographing students from vantage points beyond our control, such as outside the school or across the street from the school. The CBE cannot prevent the media from interviewing students at these locations. If this is a concern, you should alert your child to this possibility.

Athletics

At James Fowler High School, we are proud to offer an exciting, comprehensive athletic program. We believe that athletics is an integral part of the high school experience allowing students to learn many life skills. Our emphasis is on fun while challenging the students to improve and develop commitment to the school. The wide variety of sports offered makes it possible for everyone to be involved.

Fall Sports Program and Start Up Dates
Please see website

Football: Starts early so be prepared!

We are proud to offer Football again at James Fowler. To make the program a success we need to have a group of dedicated players willing to show commitment to their peers and the





school. Are you that person? Football is the ultimate team sport that requires great precision. As such, the football practices start early on Wednesday, August 29 to train and prepare the players for the season.

Please visit the school website for the Team letter, forms and fee information. Go Falcons Go!

MUSIC PROGRAM NEWS

Welcome to all Gr. 10, 11 and 12 Music students and parents! We have an exciting year ahead full of many events, trips and performances. If your child is not currently enrolled in any music courses, but are interested in taking them outside of the timetable schedule for credits, please have them attend the first event listed below, or speak to Ms. Clements.

MUSIC PARENTS & STUDENTS – Important Upcoming Dates

Please visit James Fowler Web site

JFHS LIBRARY

Enjoy the lazy days of summer and catch up on your reading! Be sure to check out the Calgary Public Library recommended reads.

Teens - Complete fun challenges online and you could win gift cards, movie passes, and more. www.calgaryyouthread.ca

Read all summer, track your progress, and you could win fantastic prizes. Set your personal reading challenge and go! <https://calgary-teens-2015.bibliocommons.com/>

Don't forget to ensure that you've returned all your books to the library, including your text books. In September new books may be signed out only by students who have returned all their books from the previous year.