

CHARLES SPENCER HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



MAVERICK NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2024

20 KNOWLEDGE WAY

GRANDE PRAIRIE, AB T8W 2V9

PHONE: 780-513-3200 EMAIL: spencer.high@gppsd.ab.ca



a Message from...
The Principal



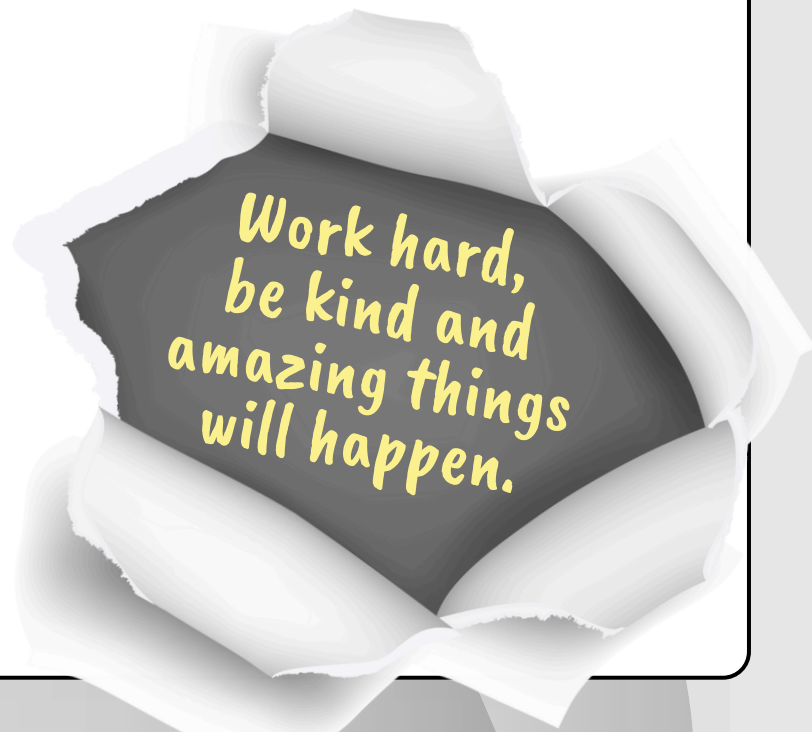
We would like to extend a welcome to all our new and returning Mavericks as we are about to begin the 2024-2025 school year! This is such an exciting season in all our lives; it is full of new beginnings, tremendous opportunities, and wonderful challenges. At Charles Spencer High School we endeavor to support all our students as they work hard to achieve their goals. We recognize that the path to success is not always linear and that learning from our mistakes is how we mature.

At CSHS our core values are perseverance, growth, responsibility, and risk-taking. When we put these values into practice, we learn more about ourselves, we discover new interests, and we open the door to new friendships. We will build meaningful relationships when we recognize that this season in our lives is not just about reaching the destination, it is about making the most out of every day we have together. Our staff is so excited to see all our students after the Labour Day long weekend and we look forward to celebrating as you embrace this next chapter in your lives.

There are many important details contained throughout this newsletter for both parents and students. We have tried to organize everything in a manner that allows you to navigate from topic to topic.

Once again, we look forward to having an amazing school year.

**WELCOME
BACK!**



important Links

GPPSD CALENDAR

REGISTRATION

SCHOOL ENGAGE

POWERSCHOOL

CSHS WEBSITE

FACEBOOK

MY PASS

CASPERS CAFETERIA

Have fees to pay?

Please log into

POWERSCHOOL

on your browser to check for outstanding fees.

Fees can be paid online, in person, or by calling the school.



DAILY SCHEDULE

CSHS Daily Schedule 2024-2025

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Block 1 8:30 – 10:00 am (90 minutes) Announcements (5 Mins) | Block 1 8:30 – 10:00 am (90 minutes) Announcements (5 Mins) | Block 1 8:30 – 10:00 am (90 minutes) Announcements (5 Mins) | Block 1 8:30 – 10:00 am (90 minutes) Announcements (5 Mins) | Block 1 8:30 – 10:00 am (90 minutes) Announcements (5 Mins) |
| <i>Transition</i> | <i>Transition</i> | <i>Transition</i> | <i>Transition</i> | <i>Transition</i> |
| Block 2 10:05 – 11:30 (85 mins) | Block 2 10:05 – 11:30 (85 mins) | Block 2 10:05 – 11:30 (85 mins) | Block 2 10:05 – 11:30 (85 mins) | Block 2 10:05 – 11:30 (85 mins) |
| Lunch 11:30 – 12:25 (55 mins) | Lunch 11:30 – 12:25 (55 mins) | Lunch 11:30 – 12:25 (55 mins) | Lunch 11:30 – 12:25 (55 mins) | Lunch 11:30 – 12:25 (55 mins) |
| Block 3 12:25 – 1:50 (85 mins) | Block 3 12:25 – 1:50 (85 mins) | Block 3 12:25 – 1:50 (85 mins) | Block 3 12:25 – 1:50 (85 mins) | Block 3 12:25 – 1:50 (85 mins) |
| <i>Transition</i> | <i>Transition</i> | <i>Transition</i> | <i>Transition</i> | <i>Transition</i> |
| Block 4 1:55 – 3:20 (85 mins) | Block 4 1:55 – 3:20 (85 mins) | Block 4 1:55 – 3:20 (85 mins) | Block 4 1:55 – 3:20 (85 mins) | Block 4 1:55 – 3:20 (85 mins) |





Following the directive from Alberta's Minister of Education

PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES AT CSHS

For Parents:

Students will not have access to their phones during scheduled class time. If there is an urgent matter, parents can contact the school office at 780-512-3200.

For Students:

- Students will stow their cell phones (off or silent) in the provided “phone garage” as they enter each classroom. Phones will remain in the provided storage area for the duration of scheduled classes.
- If students do not want to stow their phones in the “garage”, students can secure personal technology in their lockers or leave their PMDs at home.
- Students will not retrieve their PMDs from the designated area in the classroom until directed by the teacher.



Please see the following pages for all the details!

Background

This past June, Alberta's Minister of Education provided [specific direction](#) for all schools regarding personal mobile devices (PMDs) and access to social media in schools. This new policy will restrict students' access to PMDs during class time and social media will no longer be accessible on GPPSD networks. Students will receive increased support as they learn to effectively use technology for educational purposes. Unrestricted access to technology is correlated with distracted learning, decreased achievement, and increased risk of negative effects related to mental well-being.

For Parents

- Students will no longer have access to cell phones during their scheduled classes.
- If there is an urgent matter, parents can contact the school office at 780-513-3200.

For Students

Cell Phones

- Students will stow their cell phones (off or silent) in the provided "phone garage" as they enter each classroom. Phones will remain in the provided storage area for the duration of scheduled classes.
 - If students do not want to stow their phones in the classroom "garage", students can secure their technology in their lockers or leave them at home.
 - Students will not retrieve their PMDs from the designed area in the classroom unless directed by the teacher.

Other Technology

- Personal computers, headphones, and smartwatches will remain out of sight for the duration of their scheduled classes.



Exceptions for Medical Reasons

- Parents/Guardians who request access to PMDs for medical reasons will share the necessary information through email to: charlesspenceroffice@gppsd.ab.ca .

Limited Use of PMDs to Meet Learning Outcomes

- Teachers can direct students to use their PMDs during scheduled class time for activities specifically related to learning.
 - Appropriate teacher directed activities include: OneNote as a Math resource, Kahoot, and a google form exit slip.
 - Teachers will have reasonable access to school owned technology.

Responsibility for PMDs

- Students are solely responsible for the security and storage of their PMDs. The staff at CSHS assume no responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair, or replacement of PMDs.

Disciplinary Response to Misuse of PMDs

- Our school staff is committed to developing positive relationships with students and to maintaining a welcoming and predictable learning environment.
 - Our priority is to educate, support, and remind students about appropriate use of PMDs
- Teachers and administrators will follow a progressive response when assigning consequences for students.
 - Parents/Guardians will be notified by email or phone if their student has violated our plan for PMDs.
 - If a student's phone is taken by a staff member, for disciplinary reasons, it will be stored securely in the main office.
- Ongoing violations of our PMD plan will be addressed appropriately in accordance with the GPPSD Student Code of Conduct.





WELCOME **GR. 9'S** ON **SEPTEMBER 3**

8:30-11:30AM

This morning all our grade 9's will be meeting with their Block 1, Day 1 teacher to go over schedules, lockers, powerschool and library Info

11:30AM-12:15PM

Lunch Provided (Hot Dogs, Veggie Dogs & Snacks)

12:15-3:30PM

We will follow a shortened day schedule to meet your remaining teachers! There will be an informational assembly and some awesome group activities!

NEW IN GRADE 10, 11 OR 12?

Come have lunch at 11:30am;
there will be teachers available
for school tours at 12:15pm!

See the next page
for all the details!!



Picture DAY

SEPTEMBER 4TH
GRADES 9, 10 AND 11

SEPTEMBER 5TH
GRADE 12

School Photo Details...



This fall we will once again offer you the choice of different images of your child with a choice of multiple backgrounds to make your packages. After taking the photos and printing the picture proofs, we will deliver them back to your school. Proofs are shown with a white background.

To create a less complicated system for ordering, processing and delivering photos we are going with current trends to offer orders solely through an online system. First, we will send the picture proof home for you to keep this year. Second, you will place your order online but do not return the proof to the school. This small action will result in your child, yourself, the school staff and our employees eliminating the multiple times we would all touch that same item.

Ordering Online is Easy and Gives You More Options!

Go to paquins.ca and use the unique blue key code that is on your child's picture proof to view the images. Click on your favorite images to choose from a wide selection of backgrounds to create a truly unique package. Packages can have a variety of different backgrounds and poses.

You can add on retouching and personalization of your child's name to your regular enlargements too. Once you have made all your selections, click to place your order!

Please note that there is a specified date **MARKED IN RED to place your order by. On time orders are delivered to your school**

Late orders can still be placed online.

Late online orders are subject to a shipping and handling fee.

Families with 3 or more children who attend schools photographed by Paquin's are eligible for a FAMILY DISCOUNT.

Each child's order must be placed by the red "order by" date on their proof. Late orders do not qualify for the discount. Once all of your children's orders have been placed, send us an email to familyplan@paquins.ca with the order codes, your child's names and the school each child attends.

Our accounting department will then send the applicable credit back to your original form of payment.

Questions?

Call Paquin at 780-532-2180



SCHOOL COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18TH

6:00PM

HERE AT THE SCHOOL

*Everyone
Welcome!*



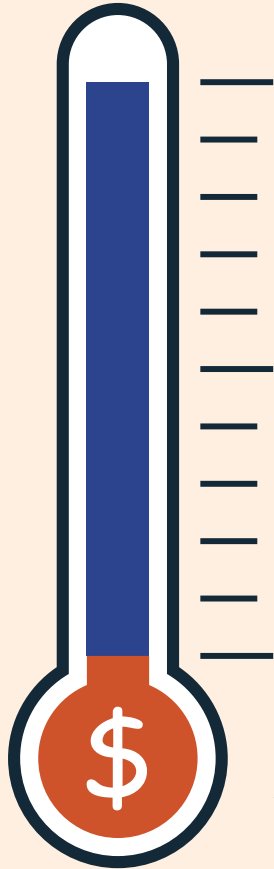
Friends of Charles Spencer

Fundraising

SOCIETY



JOIN
US!




Sept. 18th @ 7:00pm

We are looking for a few dedicated parents to become part of our board this year.

The Friends of Charles Spencer Fundraising Society provides us an avenue to fundraise to support extra curricular activities, school clubs, musical theatre and other activities that fall outside regular education funding. This helps reduce the costs and fees that our students/families are asked to pay in order to run these programs. We were just able to establish the society last year and if we can fill upcoming vacant positions on our board it will allow us to begin fundraising right away to support

If you are interested in becoming part of our board please contact
Bryan.funk@gppsd.ab.ca for more information.



**MEET THE TEACHER
& CHARLES SPENCER HIGH'S**

10 YEAR

Celebration!

THURSDAY, SEPT. 19TH 5-7PM

Here is a wonderful opportunity for all our current student families to meet their students teacher and take a tour of the school.

We are hosting a BBQ for everyone who is interested. Featuring a day brimming with engaging student activities.

Four 10 year celebration will feature a variety of displays and activities around the school for all our current students, alumni and interested community members!

CLICK HERE



To:

RSVP



THIS FALL...



MEAN GIRLS



ALL GRADE 9'S WELCOME

**SEE MS. GERON IN ROOM 139 FOR
DETAILS. REHEARSALS START SEPT 4**



INTRODUCING OUR AMAZING STUDENT SERVICES TEAM

Located upstairs and accessible to all students!

Bernadette Thibeault: Admin Assistant

Nicole Aebly: Student Advisor

Shauna Baird: Student Advisor

Dani-Elle Gillis: Indigenous Liason

Joe Lavalley : RAP/Work Experience

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL COUNSELLING SUPPORTS

Tyson Herzog , Tiffany Montgomery
and Fringina Mukaga



INDIGENOUS PROGRAM PAGE



Dani Gillis
Indigenous Liaison
587-202-6364
text or call
Dani-elle.Gillis@gppsd.ab.ca

Charles Spencer High school would like to introduce our Indigenous Liaison Dani Gillis. Dani is a Métis mother of four from Notikewan, Alberta. She has spent much of her life supporting Indigenous youth, working with the Métis Nation of Alberta and various school districts. In her spare time, Dani likes to hang out with family, watch her kids, play sports and read textbooks! As the Indigenous Liaison, Dani's role is to support First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students on their high school journey. She would love to connect with all our Indigenous families and can be reached at: Dani-elle.Gillis@gppsd.ab.ca or 587-202-6364.

Indigenous
student
self-identification
Information for
parents and
guardians...
[Click here for
more info!](#)

Why Self Identify?

Self-Declaration: In addition to supports provided for all students, GPPSD provides enhanced supports for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who have self-identified their Indigenous status through Alberta Education.



Important Dates:

Reconcili-ACTION Week: September 23 - 27

Orange Shirt Day: September 27

Indigenous Family Dinner: October 17

Inuit Day: November 7

Louis Riel Day: November 15

Red Dress Day: May 5

Indigenous Culture Day: June (TBD)

National Indigenous Peoples Day: June 21



Are you Interested in...

Indigenous Mentorship Program
Indigenous Graduate Honouring
Circle of Indigenous Students



Please see Dani for more info!

VOLLEYBALL TRYOUTS

Tuesday September 3rd – 5:30-7:30PM

Senior Boys and Junior Varsity Boys Final Tryouts

Senior Girls and Junior Varsity Tryouts

Wednesday September 4th

3:30-5:30PM – Grade 9 Girls Volleyball Open Gym

5:30-7:30PM – Senior Boys Volleyball Practice

5:30-7:30PM – Senior Girls Volleyball Practice

7:30-9:00PM – Junior Varsity Girls Practice

(or tryout if teams have not yet been selected)

Thursday September 5th

3:30-5:30PM – Grade 9 Boys Volleyball Open Gym

5:30-7:30PM – Senior Boys Volleyball Practice

5:30-7:30PM – Senior Girls Volleyball Practice

7:30-9:00PM – Junior Varsity Boys Practice



**ONCE THE TEAMS HAVE ALL BEEN SELECTED
A PRACTICE SCHEDULE WILL BE FINALIZED.**



Mavericks Grade 9 and Senior High Golf Teams

Anyone interested please listen for announcements regarding the first meeting the first week of school (See Mr. Potosky for details)



Mavericks Cross Country Running Team

Anyone interested please listen for announcements regarding the first meeting the first week of school (See Mr. Gerlitz for details)



September 6-7

Mavericks Senior Volleyball Teams at University of Alberta Volleyball High School Volleyball Tournament

September 20-21

NWP Howler Volleyball tournament. All of our Maverick teams (Grade 9, Junior Varsity and Senior Teams) will be playing



September 23rd-24th

Charles Spencer Hosting ASAA Provincial Golf Championships @ Grande Prairie Golf and Country Club and The Dunes Golf and Winter Club.

We are looking for sponsors for the event and well as a few volunteers that may be interested in helping with registration and score entry for the participants.



September 26th-28th

Mavericks Senior Boys and Girls Volleyball Teams @ the Harry Ainlay TVT Volleyball Tournament





STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Legal parent/guardians can receive phone calls, emails and/or text messages regarding school events, newsletters, student attendance, emergency information and other important news.

GET STARTED TODAY! VISIT

GO.SCHOOLMESSENGER.COM
OR SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW



DOWNLOAD APP/ CREATE ONLINE ACCOUNT

Visit go.schoolmessenger.com to get app or create account.



SET PREFERENCES

Choose how you want your notices so you never miss school information.



OPT-IN FOR SMS TEXT

Opt-in to this **free** service by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to **978338**.



REPORT STUDENT ABSENCE

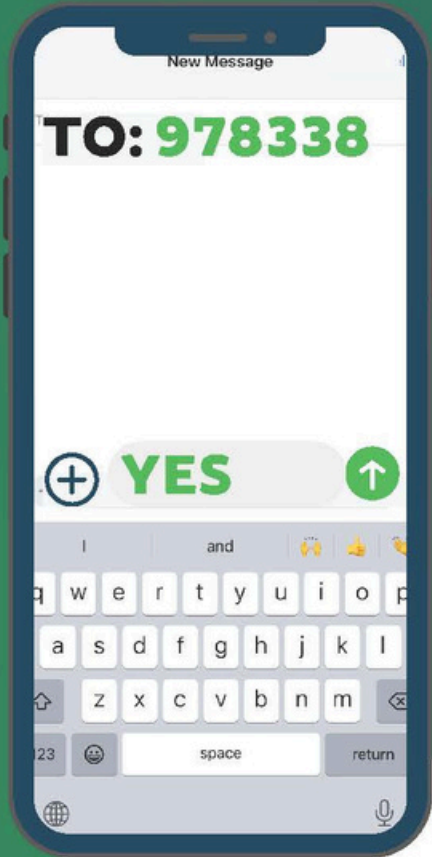
Report & schedule absences, and be notified of unexpected absences from school.



**Grande Prairie
Public School Division**



SchoolMessenger®



OPT-IN TO OUR TEXT MESSAGE SERVICE

Our school uses the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages to legal parents' and guardians' mobile devices.

**TEXT "YES" TO
978338 OR SCAN
THE QR CODE**



SMS TEXT OPT-IN

Legal Parents and Guardians can participate in this service by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to **978338**.



WHY OPT-IN?

Get the latest information from our school, wherever you are. This is the best way to stay connected with us.



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

At a minimum, we recommend setting your SMS text messages preference for emergency communication, then adding on your additional preferences.



**Grande Prairie
Public School Division**

Get your Gear Today!



THE MAVERICK MARKET HAS LOTS OF SCHOOL SWAG THAT YOU CAN PURCHASE AND TAKE HOME TODAY!

[OR CLICK HERE TO ORDER ONLINE AND HAVE IT DELIVERED RIGHT TO YOUR DOORSTEP!](#)



The right to **DISCONNECT**



Dear Parents, Guardians, and GPPSD Staff.

Welcome to all new and returning members of our school division, we're looking forward to working together again this year to help every student succeed!

Today I am introducing a new communication practice, developed in part based on feedback from last year's surveys, to improve communication and to support our goal of prioritizing the health and well-being of our students, families, and staff. This year our division is introducing a practice commonly referred to as the *Right to Disconnect*. Simply put, the right to disconnect is a way of supporting both employees and families to be disconnected from the work of school outside the regular workday.

Communication practices have changed significantly over the years, and many digital tools are used to communicate between home and school. The ease of use of these tools can create the belief that communication is a 24/7 activity. Promoting the *Right to Disconnect* mindset is intended to respect the right of staff and parents to not be obligated to send or receive messages outside the workday. Sending or receiving messages in the evening can blur the line between work and personal life, making it harder for people to separate the two.

The need for effective communication with our families remains critically important in our division and we want our families and our staff to balance their work and personal lives. While people may choose to contact schools outside regular hours, this year we're asking our staff to respond promptly during their normal work hours. I appreciate your understanding that immediate replies may not always be possible during the day, when staff are teaching or supervising students during the day.

Our new *Right to Disconnect* approach is not a policy or strict rule. Emergencies, for instance, may still require immediate responses. This letter introduces the concept and explains how and when we are asking staff to communicate, to contribute to overall well-being in our school community. The *Right to Disconnect* is just one strategy we're using to support the health and well-being of both our employees and the families we serve, because we believe that prioritizing a healthy, family-focused environment will make a positive difference in our school community.

Thank you for your support.

Alexander McDonald
Superintendent of Schools