



Feb. 14, 2017

## Important Changes to Student Population at Harold Panabaker School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

After thorough review and feedback received from parents, students, staff and community members January 2016 to January 2017, we have decided to make the following changes to the student population at the school:

- French Immersion 5-9 students move to Woodman School
- Woodlands 7-9 students are added to current school population
- Identified site for Mandarin Bilingual 5-9

In January, you received a message from the CBE about the proposed plan and had an opportunity to provide feedback on two options for junior high attendance for students in Woodlands and Woodbine. Consideration of that feedback and other important factors led us to decide that the student population at Harold Panabaker School for 2017-18 and beyond would include:

- Home Area 7-9, Silverado 7-9
- Woodlands 7-9
- Mandarin Bilingual Program students, if expression of interest results allow (will be communicated by April 2017)

This decision was made to address the fact that the school was nearing capacity. This decision maintains the regular program in the community and allows for growth of the French Immersion Program as a dual-track program at Woodman School. More details of what we heard from the community and how this plan responds to that feedback is detailed in the attached [chart](#).

We believe this plan provides the best use of learning space for our students, schools and communities as a whole. It also balances our values and planning principles with what we heard from our students, staff, parents and community.

We know you may have questions about implementing this plan, and we are providing answers to the most frequently asked questions here.

Thank you to everyone who participated at in-person sessions, open houses and through online surveys throughout the engagement process. Your thoughtful contributions have made a meaningful difference in decision-making.

### How will changes be phased in?

To maintain program integrity and efficient use of resources, all French Immersion 5-9 students will move from Harold Panabaker School to Woodman School in September 2017.

Woodlands students entering Grade 9 next year can remain at Woodman School, if they choose. Woodlands students in other grades will move to Harold Panabaker School next year.

### How will students get to school?

School walk zones and attendance areas can be found using the CBE's [Find a School](#) tool. As part of the CBE transportation strategy announced in June 2016, more middle

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**Важное замечание: Пожалуйста, попросите кого-то чтобы Вам это перевел.**

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school routes are being moved to Calgary Transit when possible. Some Harold Panabaker students will continue to use Calgary Transit to get to and from school, and others may be added. Visit [Busing & Transportation](#) for more information.

**Will students need to register at the new school location?**

French Immersion 5-9 students moving with the program to Woodman School do not need to re-register for French Immersion or register at Woodman School. Program enrolment automatically moves with the student. If a student changes from one program to another, they need to request a transfer from their current school.

**Will teachers and other staff at the school be changing?**

When an alternative program moves to a new school location, staff and leadership with qualifications and/or prerequisites unique to the program often move with it. Movement of staff with an alternative program, however, cannot be guaranteed as student enrolment numbers may impact staffing decisions and CBE staff may choose to move from school to school as career opportunities arise. In cases where students enrolled in a regular program move from one school to another, staff movement will depend on requirements at the current and new school locations as well as individual career choices.

**What support will families and students receive during the transition?**

Each school may provide support in different ways, such as hosting an information session, offering a school tour or other means of communication. Your school will advise of these opportunities once they are determined.

When a student with complex learning needs moves from one school to another, the supports required to fulfill the IPP requirements move with them. Teachers and staff at the former and new school will collaborate to ensure the student's needs are met.

**What about bell times, school calendars, transfer of resources and fundraising dollars, and other decisions?**

School administration will communicate with staff, students and parents on implementing processes that work best for the CBE and the school community. CBE Administrative Regulations and other requirements and efficiencies will also be considered in these decisions. Check your school website and newsletter regularly for updates.

**What if I have more questions?**


We have posted an [implementation FAQ](#) and other information on our website. If you have a question that is not answered here or on our website, contact the school's principal. If you still have questions, please contact the Area V office at [AreaV@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:AreaV@cbe.ab.ca) or 403-777-8780.

This is a time of excitement and, understandably, some apprehension as well. We look forward to working with staff, students and parents to help make a smooth transition.

Sincerely,



Sydney Smith  
Director, Area V



Carrie Edwards  
Director, Planning and Transportation



## Decision: Home Area 7-9, Silverado 7-9, Woodlands 7-9

French Immersion 5-9 students move to Woodman School, Woodlands students added  
Identified site for Mandarin Bilingual 5-9, depending on results of expression of interest

Current:	Key factors and what we heard	Response related to key factors and what we heard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Programming: Regular program 7-9, French Immersion 5-9</li> <li>▪ Enrolment: Regular program = 184 French Immersion = 276 Total = 460</li> <li>▪ Available instructional space: 615</li> </ul>	<p>Providing a variety of options and extra-curricular activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This will be possible at Harold Panabaker with addition of Mandarin Bilingual Program and enrolment growth in Silverado</li> <li>▪ Adding Woodlands students allows for a broader scope of programming</li> </ul>
	<p>Keep students close to home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintains regular program in the community</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Available instructional space: 615</li> </ul>	<p>Keep groups of students together as they move schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Projected French Immersion enrolment combined with home area enrolment is too large for Harold Panabaker in future</li> </ul>
<p><b>Issue:</b> Nearing capacity (as regular program enrolment grows from Silverado and French Immersion enrolment grows from higher number of elementary students at Janet Johnstone)</p>	<p>Concerns about increased distance and time on bus and potential to increase overall carbon footprint</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Allows many students to walk to school</li> <li>▪ Maintains similar travel time to school</li> </ul>
	<p>Offering more than one program at a school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addition of Mandarin Program means two programs operate in same school</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Sustainability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Allows for growth of French Immersion Program</li> <li>▪ Allows for future expansion of Mandarin Program and maintains regular program</li> </ul>