



June 5, 2017

South Mandarin Bilingual Program – preparing for 2018-19 and beyond

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Calgary Board of Education has heard strong support from the parent community for the expansion of the South Mandarin Bilingual Program. Although registration criteria were not met for the 2017-18 school year, we continue to support the expansion of the program. As such, for the 2018-19 school year we will designate Grade 5-7 students in the South Mandarin Bilingual Program to Harold Panabaker School, contingent upon a minimum confirmed registration of 20 students per grade.

We announced this decision in an April 17, 2017 letter and confirmed it at a meeting on April 24. During the meeting, a number of additional suggestions were made or questions asked in an effort to support the expansion of the South Mandarin Bilingual Program. Below is information about the CBE response:

- The CBE modified the [Mandarin Bilingual Program web page](#) to clearly indicate that students interested in the Mandarin Bilingual Program can enter the program after kindergarten and Grade 1 if they pass a proficiency test.
- The CBE will conduct an online survey in early January 2018 to gain a sense of how many students intend to continue in the Mandarin Bilingual Program at Harold Panabaker School. The survey will be extended to all families eligible to enrol in the South Mandarin Bilingual Program.
- Midnapore School will host a parent information session late this school year or early next school year for parents of current Grade 3-5 Mandarin Bilingual students. This will allow all the parents to ask questions and learn more about what the 5-7 program might look like at Harold Panabaker School. This took place on June 1, 2017.
- Harold Panabaker School will host a tour and information session for prospective Mandarin Bilingual students and parents on October 5, 2017.
- Mandarin Bilingual parents will explore ways to promote the program. To ensure as much funding as possible is spent on student learning, the CBE and its schools do not have funds available for the promotion of specific programs.
- Midnapore School will develop an exit survey that will be conducted when parents leave the Mandarin Bilingual Program at the school to help identify the reasons for leaving.
- The CBE is able to provide Full-Year Temporary Teacher contracts when teachers with specialized skills, like those required for the Mandarin Bilingual Program, are identified. This helps us to retain those teachers when the opportunity arises.
- The CBE would be able to provide the staffing needed for a Mandarin culture and language class in the south part of the city if there are enough students interested in participating. The language and culture courses are offered based on student registration and interest year to year. The level of interest would need to be determined and confirmed before any decisions could be made. Please contact your school principal if you would like to know more about this.

Information on upcoming events and initiatives will be distributed on school websites, in school newsletters and through other school-based communications. You can also contact the principals at Midnapore and Harold Panabaker schools if you have any further questions.

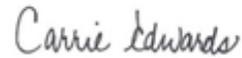
Sincerely,



Sydney Smith
Director, Area 6



Sylvie Monfette
Director, Area 5



Carrie Edwards
Director, Planning and Transportation

