



The Phoenix Messenger

FFCA South High School 315-86 Ave SE Calgary, AB T2H 1Z2

Matter of Principal

Welcome to the end of a unique first month of school. Regardless of the hiccups and barriers the FFCA South High School is up and running and in full swing.

Here are some of the things that are occurring on a day-to-day basis:

- A new “Student Council” is being formed. Replacing a traditional model of student union, the SHS Student Council will be created in the image of an advisory council, much like School Council, and we are excited to partner with our students to help improve SHS.
- School Council is up and running. The School Council will be hosting a re-opening on October 5th at our FFCA South High School from 6-8 PM. We hope to see a larger number of families take advantage of the opportunity to see our building and meet other FFCA families.
- Athletics has started! We have four volleyball teams and a cross country running team all competing in the Calgary Independent Schools Athletic Association.
- Musical auditions are happening now!
- Choir has started. We have over 40+ students in our choir!
- Theatre Trips are planned for our English Language Arts department.
- Outdoor Education trips are up and running. We have students on the Out ED 10 Water Travel Course as I write.
- Our Wellness Center is hosting a Wellness Group on Wednesdays at lunchtime to support students physical, emotional, and mental wellness. This is a lighthearted approach to what can be a challenging time in a teen’s life. Wellness Wednesdays offer games, puzzles, colouring contests, snacks and much more.
- Clubs have started! We have the following clubs already up and running at FFCA SHS.
 - ◊ Creative Writing Club
 - ◊ Speech Club
 - ◊ Student Council
 - ◊ Bottle Rocket Club
 - ◊ Queer Straight Alliance
 - ◊ Many more to come...

Thanks to all our staff, students and families who make our school an amazing learning community regardless of our location or circumstances. I am proud to be a part of FFCA and look forward to the coming year.

Josh Symonds, Principal Educator
Colin Marshall, Associate Principal

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Dates to Remember

Sept 29	Orange Shirt Day
Oct 9	Thanksgiving No School
Oct 11	Photo Retakes
Oct 19-20	PD Days (No classes)
Oct 24	Night of the Phoenix
Oct 26	Report Cards
Oct 27	Casual Day



PHOTO RETAKES

SHS Photo Retakes will take place on **Wednesday, October 11**. This will include students who were absent on original photo day. Please ensure your students arrived in their Gala uniform.



ATTEDANCE: NOTIFY THE OFFICE

When a child is going to be late or absent from school, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to inform us of the reason for the late/absence before 8:00 am.

To report your child's absence, send an email the campus office at shs.office@ffca-calgary.com

Please be sure to include the following information:

1. date of absence
2. first and last name of your student
3. the reason they will be away

The student **MUST** sign out at the office before leaving the campus, they are not required to sign in when they arrive at school.

An extended leave of absence from school requires written notification to the Principal Educator. Please send the email to joshua.symonds@ffca-calgary.com. Once again *not* all absences are considered excused under government rules.

PARKING LOT SAFE PRACTICES

Dear Parents,

Please also note that the Staff Parking Lot may ***not be used to drop off or pick up students*** during regular school hours, unless required for medical or accessibility reasons. Please find a safe spot in the community for pick-up and drop-off during these times.

We also want to ensure we are being mindful and courteous of our neighbors; please watch for elementary school bus stops, driveways, and parking zones.

Thank you for keeping these things in mind for everyone's safety.

FFCA South High School



Moving? ***INTERNAL TRANSFER PROCESS***

If your family is moving to a home that is outside the boundary of your child's current campus, your child may remain at that campus but you will be responsible for transporting your child to and from school. Bussing is not available outside the designated campus boundaries. If you require transportation, you will need to apply for an internal transfer to the campus designated for your new address. You may apply on or after the first day of school in the 21/22 year and applications should be in place by March 1, 2022, to have the best opportunity to transfer for the 2022/23 year. The transfer requests are done through the Online Waitlist system. Internal transfer Requests will precede waitlist students (including priority status and siblings, but not including deferred priority). If the requested campus is unable to accommodate your student, there will still be a guaranteed seat at the current campus. Please see the following link for the instructions to request a transfer through the Online Waitlist system.

Please note:

- transfers do not occur mid-year
- transfers can only occur if a seat becomes available in the requested campus (possible wait of up to 6 years)
- we may not be able to accommodate all children in the same family

https://www.ffca-calgary.com/important_information/admission_information/internal_transfer_requests

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STUDENT SERVICES

WHY SHOULD MY CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH BE A PRIORITY?

An estimated 1.2 million children and youth are affected by mental illness – yet less than 20% will receive appropriate treatment. (Youth Mental Health Stats in Canada, updated 2019 - <https://ymhc.ngo/resources/ymh-stats/>)

As professionals in the areas of mental health and wellness, we have seen a significant increase in the reported statistics around child and youth mental health and wellness concerns since COVID. The long periods of isolation, a lack of structure in day-to-day routines and the ongoing uncertainty of what the future holds are primary and contributing factors to mental health and wellness for us all. Not to mention the complexity of what it is to be a young person today with access to more information than ever before.

ADDRESS

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CONTACT US

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WELLNESS MATTERS

FFCA STUDENT WELLNESS CENTRE

Here at FFCA we make academic education, as well as the mental and emotional wellness of your child(ren) a priority. As such, we have a full-time master's level Social Worker on site and access to a Psychologist. Please read more about our team.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR - Mr. Samra

International University and Student Travel Expo

Calgary's *Study and Go Abroad Fair* is occurring on Wednesday, September 27th, in-person at the BMO Centre at Stampede Park from 2-6pm.

These fairs offer a great opportunity for students to start planning for college and university next year. The fair has 35 colleges and universities attending from around the world. There are also prizes and seminars on several topics including finding the right scholarships for each student.

By attending the Study and Go Abroad / SchoolFinder Fair on Wednesday, September 27th at the BMO Centre, you have the chance to explore each universities' academic options, chat directly with representatives from top schools, gather information about programs, and more.

Here are 3 more reasons why you should attend:

- 1) Chance to win amazing prizes, including a free flight anywhere in the world on Air Canada
- 2) Chat with 30+ exhibitors
- 3) Attend free live presentations

WHEN:

Wednesday, September 27th

2pm - 6pm

Seminars: 1pm - 6pm

WHERE:

BMO Centre at Stampede Park,

Palominas A-H

1410 Olympic Way SE Calgary, AB

For more information on how to register, please visit

<https://www.studyandgoabroad.com/calgary/>

Grade 12 National Scholarship and Award Opportunities:

Loran Awards

There are 34 awards available and valued at \$100,000 over four years. Students must have a minimum average of 85% and demonstrate character, the promise of leadership, and a strong commitment to service in the community.

Eligibility Criteria for High School Students

- Be entering university for the first time in September 2024.
- Present a minimum cumulative average of 85%.
- Hold Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status.
- Be born between January 1, 2002 and September 1, 2008.

For information on how to apply, please visit loranscholar.ca/becoming-a-scholar/

The deadline to apply is October 11, 2023, before 8:00PM (Eastern Time).

2. TD Scholarships for Community Leadership (valued up to \$40,000)

These scholarships are awarded to students across Canada who have shown exceptional initiative in making a meaningful and lasting differences in their community. Each scholarship includes four years of tuition, \$7,500 towards living expenses, and offers of summer employment. Students must have a minimum average of 75%. However, the key criterion is outstanding community leadership. The deadline to apply for this award is Tuesday, November 15th, 2022. The application form and information is available at

<https://www.td.com/ca/en/personal-banking/solutions/student-banking/community-leadership-scholarship-for-canadians/>

TRANSPORTATION NEWS



Parents/guardians requesting changes to bus stops **must** put their change request in writing (Bus Change Request Form) and email the form to the Transportation Department. Change requests for convenience and/or proximity to residences will not be considered.

Requests will be accepted until the 15th of October and assessed according to the guidelines outlined in the Transportation Parent Handbook to keep the ride times to a minimum. Requests for a second bus stop or a bus stop at daycare **will not be accommodated**; however, we can allow students to use a different bus route if space is available and there is an existing stop along that route. Students are assigned to their community routes as this is how we balance the student loads per route. Please notify the Transportation Department immediately if you plan to have your student use a stop other than your community stop.

All change requests will be accepted but not addressed until October/November (unless there is a safety concern) as per the Transportation Agreement that parents/guardians agree to when signing up their students to ride the bus.

Please note: all requests to change, provide or cancel bus service must be sent by email to the Transportation Department. Campuses cannot make changes to your transportation.

Please see the website for further information - www.ffca-calgary.com > Important Information > Bus Information.

Susan Goldsmith
Director, Transportation Services

MYBUS STOP



All of our Southland buses have GPS units installed, so you will be able to see where your child's bus is at any point during its scheduled route. If there is a substitute bus due to mechanical issues, you will not be able to see where the bus is, but you will still see expected delays and dispatch comments. If your child rides the bus, please sign up for our monitoring system. All information is erased each summer, so you will need to sign up again. **Check Edsby for the NEW school code for your campus.** Ensure you add the AM and PM routes if your child rides two-way.

See the website for additional information and to register: <http://www.mybusstop.ca/>.

BUS INSTALLMENT DUE

Parents\Guardians of bussed students:

If you chose the fee installment plan when registering your student(s) for bus service:

Installment #2 is NOW DUE (by October 15)

Installment #3 is due January 15.

BUS DELAY INFORMATION:

There WILL be delays in bus service due to driver shortages, weather conditions, mechanical problems and/or traffic congestion.

Southland Riders: Southland GPS App: MyBusStop will provide you with real-time bus tracking. Instructions to sign up are posted in Edsby.



**Get Paid To Do
What Most Parents
Do For Free.**

Drive for your child's school! Become a school bus driver today.

Visit SOUTHLAND.ca/careers or phone 1-844-798-5627 to apply today!



FREE TRAINING • TAKE YOUR KIDS WITH YOU • TRAINING BONUS