

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting

September 20, 2022

For Immediate Release

Presentation: Whitecourt Gateway Academy

Teacher and Academy Coordinator Maureen Kendall, and teacher, Kevin Babiuk, spoke to the Board about Whitecourt's Gateway Academy and how the outreach program is serving students in the community.

Whitecourt Gateway Academy has 60 students currently enrolled, plus an additional 12 Hilltop students who are working on courses they weren't able to access as part of their regular program at Hilltop Jr/Sr High School.

Kendall and Babiuk spoke with pride and excitement about the program which offers regular high school programming in a more flexible and non-traditional setting.

The smaller learning environment and flexibility allow for a strong sense of community and one-on-one support that makes a difference in meeting the different needs of students. Students who are completing their education while working, students who take care of family members, students who find it hard to focus in the regular learning environment and students with mental health challenges like anxiety, are finding success and personalized support in outreach.

Kendall and Babiuk shared testimonials from students who shared how Gateway Academy Whitecourt has empowered them in their learning. The program celebrated 24 graduates last school year with 40% of students working on the academic program of studies.

Interested in learning more? Follow Gateway Academy – Whitecourt Campus on Facebook or contact them directly at 780.778.5865/

Presentation: Career Exposure Boot Camps

Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School Principal Beth Jager joined the Board to talk about the Division's Career Exposure Summer Boot Camps.

The very popular hands-on career exposure learning continues to run each July at Hilltop Jr/Sr High School and is open to Grades 9-12 students from all schools. Courses are free and transportation was provided to Whitecourt from Fox Creek and Mayerthorpe, presenting quite the opportunity for students to explore potential career paths, learn new skills and earn high school credits, at no cost.

Principal Jager spoke to the educational equity the program brings to students who might not otherwise have these learning opportunities. Career Exposure summer programming is funded by NGPS and provincial, municipal and community partners. 90 students signed up for courses this summer.

Hilltop Jr/Sr High School Plans for International Field Trip

Hilltop teacher Pam Mehl conferenced into the Board's meeting to provide an overview of the school's 'Ireland in Depth' tour planned for this upcoming Spring. International travel experiences are excellent learning and personal growth opportunities for students. Mehl cited the "historical, political and cultural aspects" that students will visit including places that involved some of the most turbulent times in world history. Students will tour Belfast and Dublin, the Cliffs of Moher, the Giant's Causeway, and much more.

"Students learn so much about themselves and the world around them," said Mehl. "The skills students develop through travel are numerous and the confidence and empowerment they gain is invaluable."

The Board approved the trip in principle.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for [October 18 , 2022, at the Division Office in Whitecourt](#), commencing at [10:00 a.m.](#) Members of the public are invited to attend or watch the Meeting live on our YouTube channel, [NGTV](#).