



# École Deer Meadow School

## Chinook's Edge School Division

Week of April 4 - 8, 2022

### Week at a Glance

Apr. 4 - Parent Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Apr. 5 - Pizza Tuesday

Apr. 7 - Quiznos Lunch

Apr. 7 - Last day of Term 2 Academies

### Parent Reminders

- See below for the 'why' and story behind our **No Cell Phone Policy** at EDMS
- All parents, students and staff are asked to complete the EDMS School Survey each year. This survey consists of questions associated with our school and division goals. We will be sending you the link soon so stay tuned!
- Guess what?! The deadline for ordering yearbooks has been extended. What a great year this has been, so don't miss the chance to get your hands on a piece of your history! Don't let this chance pass you by; Order your yearbook today!  
Yearbooks are available to order by **clicking here**



We are starting to get some fabulous prizes for our annual Spellathon fundraiser. Information will be coming home in mid April but we can use some help.

If you or your business would like to gift a prize to the Spell-a-thon, they can be dropped off at the office and we will start adding them to our display. If you have any questions, please call the office at 403-556-1003.

For every \$5 your child raises, they earn one ticket to enter the draw for some amazing prizes.



École Deer Meadow School

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# École Deer Meadow School Cell Phone Policy

## “A Look Back”

In April 2019, Deer Meadow's parent council and Deer Meadow administration began discussions around the appropriate use of technology in our school. It became apparent they needed to address the ÉDMS device policy and how it was monitored. They received feedback from other schools, the division office, the superintendent, and our parent community through a survey. Judging by the number of responses they received, this was a ‘hot button’ topic.

Across the board, there was unanimity in the need to be responsive to the situation with the sheer number of devices that were coming into the school.

Here is a summary of some of the key survey results:

- The respondents were equally represented across our four grade levels
- To the question “What educational benefits do you see with students having cell phones at school?” the majority of the respondents stated “none”. About 3% mentioned the ability to use apps or use the device for research.
- To the question “If your child did not have access to a cell phone during the day, would you have any concerns?”, 70% said “no concerns”. Others cited the ability to contact their child during the day or the child’s ability to confirm plans after school as potential concerns.
- “What would you suggest as the best way to prevent cell phones from being a distraction to student learning?” 100% of respondents (115/115) provided some version of not allowing access during instructional time. This ranged from “Leave it at home!” to “No wifi at school on mobile devices?” to “Students can bring cell phones but they must stay in their lockers all day.”

**We believe this policy drastically reduces the many distractions mobile devices cause for students. No child should be at the mercy of a device all day. When students attend ÉDMS, they are able to put their phones away and actively engage in learning, communication and play.**

The updated policy they decided upon, and the policy we still have in place today, is provided below.

## ÉDMS Digital Device Policy

(found in the Student Handbook at [www.deermeadow.ca](http://www.deermeadow.ca))

We encourage all student cell phones and digital devices to be left at home.

It is recognized that cell phones and other digital internet-capable devices may be available to some of our students. With that, such devices brought to school will be required to be locked inside the student's locker immediately when they enter the school and accessed ONLY after the last bell at 3:12. Students will not have access, nor will they need access to their devices, throughout the day. Plans that need to be made for after school will need to be made in advance or made using the classroom telephone with teacher permission. There will continue to be a landline telephone at the office available to students after school.

Any student with a device at school will be required to have a school lock on their locker. The lock must always be locked and the combination NOT shared. There will be no "In Locker" use of devices. Failing to follow the Digital Device Policy will result in the consequences as outlined below.

### **Failure to follow the digital device policy will result in:**

**1st offense:** The student is asked to call home on the classroom phone and explain the violation. The teacher will alert the administration to make a record of the first offense.

**2nd offense:** The teacher will call home. The parent is asked to keep the device at home. The administration is notified.

**3rd offense:** Administration will call home. The parent will be required to pick up the device that has been confiscated. The device will be kept in a securely locked box until picked up by a parent.

NOTE: The fastest method of getting a message to your child during the school day is to call the school office at 403-556-1003 then dial 2 for the office.