

## Dual credit is a powerful program for students

- A message from Superintendent Kurt Sacher

Did you know... **A student who enrolls in a dual credit course is almost 100% guaranteed to graduate?**

As Chinook's Edge looked back over the last decade of students who participated in dual credit opportunities, our records show that almost all of these students graduated. We knew dual credit was going well, but when we discovered this data we were thrilled!

### What is dual credit?

Dual credit allows high school students to enroll in a course through a post-secondary institution and receive credit for that course "dually": at the post secondary level and at high school. Dual Credit programming provides career pathway experiences as students explore various career learning through these courses. We offer:

- Various skilled trades experiences with early introduction to trades courses
- Pre-employment Certification in Welding and Heavy Equipment Technician
- Student career training in the area of animal sciences with the offering of the Veterinary Technical Assistant Certificate
- Dual credit single course experiences: exploration of careers in business, sports management, animal sciences, horticulture, health care, hospitality, and agriculture technology

The goal of dual credit is to provide students with skills and experience necessary to transition successfully to post-secondary learning for their career of choice learning. We want students to leave high school engaging in the career pathway that they are passionate about. About 490 Chinook's Edge students enrolled in dual credit this year.



Veterinary Tech - dual credit students

**Why does dual credit have an impact on graduation?** There are two main reasons this program is having such a positive impact:

1. We have found that students who participate in dual credit **gain motivation**. They might hear, for instance, from a post-secondary instructor that a certain mark or a specific course is needed to progress in a career. Students are telling us this direct connection to careers makes their schooling more purposeful to them. As well, students find that their overall high school achievement increases as they better understand how important the skills of math, science and communication are for them in their future career.
2. **Direct support from a caring adult**. The structure of the dual credit program means a staff member will directly support individual students through advising and coaching to ensure the experience is successful. The influence of these staff members in a 'shepherding' type of role contributes significantly to student success.

In Chinook's Edge "Career Connections" is one of our three major priorities. Dual credit is just one high leverage strategy to help students transition into future careers. Please connect with your school for more information.

To read the latest version of the Board e-News, please [click here](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kurt Sacher".