

## Core High School – *a Leading Educational Environment*

### Vision

The Core High School will be part of the leading educational environment of the Community Learning Campus (CLC). Concepts in existence at the current high school will be expanded and programs that would not have been offered in its current location will be available to all students.

The design of this new Olds High School demonstrates the vision of the community, Chinook's Edge School Division (CESD) administration, staff, and students. The Core High School will incorporate alternative teaching and learning methods to facilitate personalized learning plans and provide expanded programming for learners. It will be the nucleus of an innovative, collaborative learning environment enhanced with learning opportunities throughout the Bell e-Learning Centre, Fine Arts and Multi Media Centre, Health and Wellness Facility, as well as existing campus facilities such as the Learning Resource Centre, Trades and Technology Labs, research laboratories and other facilities located throughout the Olds College campus.

Program development and implementation will provide an integrated, multi-year sequence of career guidance, course work, and work-based learning experiences that enable students to explore a variety of career choices. Programming will include academics, applied academics, relevant Career and Technology Studies (CTS), job shadowing, mentorship, internships, apprenticeships, portfolio development, and research assistants transition opportunities. Programming will comply with Alberta Education K-12 guidelines and support the goal of transition with Alberta Advanced Education. Programs are designed to support a seamless transition for students to start their college diploma/certificate program, university degree or apprenticeship.

### The Facility

Located at the south end of the campus the school will be practical and functional incorporating natural light, an open design, and spatial variety. It features classrooms, staff development areas, a student gathering area, and a science centre. The Science Park will be designed to be a flexible space allowing classes, small project teams and/or individual learners to access and utilize a specialized learning space. Several of the functional spaces, such as physical education and fine arts, will be incorporated into other building elements throughout the CLC campus.

### The Core High School Offers Unique Solutions

The physical design of the Core High School reflects a non-traditional personalized learning environment. Organized around four learning *houses*, academic subjects will be embraced through interdisciplinary teams of teachers working with a fixed group of students. Groups of teachers and students will be formed into learning houses that will micro-schedule courses, class time, learning clusters and project opportunities within their time allotment. Grade 11 students will embark on a two year experience within the same learning team that will culminate with the completion of Grade 12. The four interdisciplinary teams will each be defined by one of the following elements:

- Core 9 – introduction to CLC opportunities and learning styles

- Core 10 – experimentation with inquiry and project-based learning
- Classroom based 11/12 – emphasis on teacher delivery with a strong project learning component
- Seminar based 11/12 – emphasis on self-direction and project learning

Interdisciplinary teams consisting of approximately 4-6 teachers will serve 100-150 students. Teams will function within a large block of time (all morning for example) and will divide instructional time into group activities, project learning time, and subject specific instruction. In this way, the greatest flexibility for scheduling, instruction, and experiential learning can be embraced.

The Core High School Learning Resource Centre will be amalgamated with the Olds College Learning Resource Centre to provide high school students with greater access to both print and on-line resources. In addition, high school students will be able to access the same databases that are currently available to college students.

In summary the Core High School will:

- Integrate the Chinook’s Edge School Division motto “Where Students Come First”
- Incorporate core programming necessary for high school education
- Utilize CLC and Olds College facilities to provide enhanced learning
- Provide personalized learning plans and learning support for learners
- Encourage team approaches to instruction that support the personalized learning of students
- Provide educational opportunities through a *house* system, seminar opportunities and grade grouping
- Offer a full complement of optional courses including CTS, fine arts, food, fashion, computers, media arts, construction technology, mechanics, and fabrication
- Provide programming such as the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), Green Certificate and knowledge and employability skills
- Present opportunities for service learning and volunteerism
- Incorporate both student gathering areas and staff development areas

## Core High School: Key Elements of the Instructional Model

- Engage all learners by addressing their individual needs, giving them ownership of what they choose to learn
- Embark in active learning through project opportunities and problem-solving activities grounded in authentic, real-world contexts
- Assume an interdisciplinary approach allowing learners to design projects based upon their multiple intelligences
- Build teams of students and educational facilitators that will collaborate to establish personalized learning communities
- Establish the teacher’s role as interactive and rooted in dialogue, enabling them to be coaches, mentors, moderators and facilitators
- Endorse learning undertaken through asking and answering questions as a fundamental competency
- Infuse technology to make the most of learning opportunities
- Promote life-long learning

## Core High School: Education Themes

The Core High School will support the four Education Themes established for the CLC:

- **Living in a Digital World** – utilizes the newest electronic technology to support learner outcomes and integrate this technology into core courses as determined by Alberta Education; provides an access point for students to connect to up-to-date career and employment information available through digital resources; offers training in leadership, second languages, and other areas of study, through on-line courses.

- **Environmental Sustainability** – will stress environmental sustainability in course work.
- **Learning for All Persons in the Community** - provides access to flexible and specialized space with programs and services for learners Olds College, Chinook’s Edge School Division, as well as members of Olds and the surrounding community, regardless of age or ability.
- **Globalization** – will offer on-line courses to students on an international scale as well as offering languages such as Spanish to high school students.

**Timeline**

Construction of the Core High School commenced in fall 2006 and will open in fall 2009.

**Financial Impact<sup>1</sup>**

**Core High School**

Capital	13,753,789
Furniture & Equipment	<u>1,173,945</u>
Total	14,927,734

<sup>1</sup>Budget established August 2007

Note: Olds College has committed to raise \$5,000,000 toward the CLC Campaign Total



*In collaboration with the Town of Olds,  
Mountain View County and the University of Alberta*

*For more information about this 2009 Capital Vision Campaign Project, please contact:*

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