# Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Dear Seven Oaks School Division Community,

On behalf of Seven Oaks School Division, I'm delighted to welcome you to the 2025–2026 school year! It is with genuine excitement that we begin another year of learning, growth, and shared success. This year, our dedicated team of nearly 1,500 staff will work alongside approximately 12,400 students across our 27 schools—each bringing their own talents, dreams, and potential.

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**To our students** – A warm welcome to each of you. You belong here. We hope this year brings lasting connections, meaningful challenges, and opportunities that inspire you. We can't wait to see all you accomplish.

**To families and caregivers** – Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education. We are committed to working in partnership with you to ensure your child feels supported, encouraged, and valued on their learning journey.

**To Seven Oaks staff** – Your dedication is the foundation of our division's success. Grounded in relationships, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to students, you make Seven Oaks a place where learning flourishes. Thank you for the passion and care you bring every day.

Our work this year will continue to be guided by our divisional priorities:

- Strong teaching and rich learning environments
- Truth and Reconciliation and anti-racism
- Inclusive, safe, and welcoming environments
- Advocacy for public education

The Seven Oaks Board of Trustees and senior administration regularly review these priorities to ensure they remain aligned with provincial goals and reflect the voices of our families and community.

#### Reminders

## **Cell Phone Policy**

Last year, we introduced a policy limiting cell phone use, which remains in effect for the 2025–2026 school year, including on school buses and field trips.

- Kindergarten-Grade 8: Students may not use or access cell phones during the school day, including breaks and lunch. Cell phones must be left at home, in a bag, or in a locker.
- **Grades 9–12**: Cell phone use is not permitted during class time. Phones may be used during breaks and lunch, or for educational purposes at the direction of teachers.

### **School Zone Traffic**

A recent CAA Manitoba survey found that 90% of families have witnessed unsafe driving in school zones. For the safety of our children, we must all do our part:

- Follow posted speed limits and signal your intentions.
- Watch for School Safety Patrols at intersections and crosswalks.
- Be mindful of pick-up and drop-off procedures as communicated by schools.
- Choose a safe, accessible meeting spot for your child.
- Always stop for school buses with flashing red lights, from either direction, and remain stopped until the lights are off and the bus moves.

For more information, visit CAA Manitoba's School Zone Safety page. School Zone Safety - CAA Manitoba

# **Working with Families and Caregivers**

At Seven Oaks, we are committed to supporting student success. We know that strong partnerships between home and school make a real difference and encourage families to connect with teachers and administration. Our staff are here to listen, guide, and work with families/caregivers so every student feels supported.

Let's make this a year where every student feels a sense of belonging and is encouraged to reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

Tony Kreml Superintendent

Seven Oaks School Division