

Penhold Elementary School

~A Great Place to Learn~

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April 28th, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

RE: Notification of Provincial Achievement Tests

In Alberta, Provincial Achievement Tests are administered to students in grade 6 and 9 with the purpose of 'determining if students are learning what they are expected to learn; to report to Albertans how well students have achieved provincial standards at given points in their schooling; and to assist schools, school authorities, and the province in monitoring and improving student learning.' ([Alberta Education Parent Guide, 2022/2023](#)).

Alberta's provincial achievement tests are aligned with the provincial programs of study. These tests do not assess every outcome the students have learned in the accumulation of a year, in saying that we recognize that PAT's show only a small snapshot of student learning. A complete picture of where a student is at should look at the learning and assessment completed throughout the year by the classroom teachers as well as the results from these provincial exams.

Grade 6 students at Penhold Elementary School will be writing Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science this spring. Students who have received accommodations throughout the year will be given the same accommodations on their PAT exams.

At Penhold Elementary School, tests will be marked by the classroom teachers before they are returned to Alberta Education. Marking the achievement tests before they are returned will allow us to get a preliminary look at the performance of our students, and provide parents with immediate information as to how their child did on the test. Marks will be communicated to parents via PowerSchool to view around June report card time. PAT marks are not part of a students' final course mark in grade 6 nor do they have an impact on their schooling going forward.

In September 2023, Individual Student Profile (ISP) of each student will be provided by Alberta Education to the school where the student wrote the Provincial Achievement Tests. These ISP's are completed after final marking and scores are calculated by Alberta Education. The ISP will present your child's performance on each Provincial Achievement Test in relation to provincial standards. As a school division, this information may be useful in planning and delivering relevant and effective instruction for the coming year as well as provide the next year's teachers information to support them in planning their instruction. Information about student performance on provincial achievement tests is provided to school staff, school authorities, parents and the

public so that they may know how well students in their schools are meeting local targets and provincial expectations. We will mail out ISP's once they are received in the fall.

Parents can support the students with these PAT's by helping them prepare, making sure students have a full nights sleep before each assessment, have a balanced breakfast and taking a read through Alberta Education's [Parent Guide](#). Parents can also support students by completing some of the practice questions from the [Quest A Plus](#) site or [Exam Bank](#) (Username: PES, Password: PESgrade6)

The exam schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, May 17th - 9:00 am until 11:00 am- Part A - English Language Arts

Tuesday, June 20th - 9:00 am until 11:00 am- Part B - English Language Arts

Thursday, June 22nd - 9:00 am until 11:00 am- Part A - Mathematics

Friday, June 23rd - 9:00 am until 11:00 am- Part B - Mathematics

Monday, June 26th - 9:00 am until 11:00 am - Social Studies

Tuesday, June 27th - 9:00 am until 11:00 am- Science

This year's exam dates were set by the provincial government and schools were unable to move exams. Our division calendar was set before these dates were released and, as a result, caused a couple of the exams to be on days that we have other school functions scheduled. On Monday, June 26th, our grade 6 students will be writing their exams in the morning and then we will be bussed to meet up with the rest of our school at Rotary Park in Red Deer for lunch followed by going to a movie at Cineplex. On Tuesday, June 27th, the PAT exam will be completed before we do our year end activities.

Our teachers are working hard as we wrap up this school year to complete all of the grade 6 outcomes. Teachers will spend time with classes to review with them ahead of time how to write PAT's and ensure students have all of the necessary tools for them to be successful when writing these exams. Please call our school if you have any questions regarding these upcoming exams.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Giselle Meyer & Grade 6 Teaching Team