



Prairie Valley School Division

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- News Release -

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PRACTICAL AND APPLIED ARTS PROGRAMMING INVESTMENT

A significant investment is being made in students within Prairie Valley School Division in the Practical and Applied Arts area. New courses are being added, current courses are being enhanced with new equipment, and a new method of program delivery is being implemented.

Practical and Applied Arts (PAA) courses range from commercial cooking and photographics to carpentry, automotives and cosmetology. These courses help develop employment skills, life skills and assist in the transition from school to career. This investment will teach students skills to make their transition from high school to career smoother.

“The Board of Education wants to ensure our students have opportunities and access to the same programs and services as students in other School Divisions,” says Board Chair Ed Geall. “This investment helps our Board achieve that access.”

Three new courses will be offered for the first time in Prairie Valley schools: Electrical and Electronics, Cosmetology, and Mechanical and Automotives. In addition, almost all high schools will offer a broader range of Practical and Applied Arts courses. Students were surveyed this year to determine their interest in various courses, and those interests have determined available courses.

Over \$750,000 is being spent on PAA equipment upgrades in new and existing courses such as Construction and Carpentry, Welding, Commercial Cooking, Communication Production Technology and many more. This equipment includes everything from convection ovens, MIG welders and radio and TV studio recording gear to measuring cups, welding gloves and curling irons. The Grenfell bus shop which maintains and repairs Prairie Valley buses will be the home of the first Mechanical and Automotive course in the Division. Two equipment trailers will also be outfitted with electrical and construction equipment, which can then be delivered to the schools that need it for those courses. Additional staff time and training will be allocated, and some facility upgrades will be done over the summer.

The magnet concept is a unique way to deliver programs in rural schools. “Magnet programming allows more choice for students. This is an effective way to deliver specialized programs to a geographically widespread area with relatively small student populations,” explains Prairie Valley Director of Education Ben Grebinski. “Our magnet schools are specialized centers with the staff, facility and equipment to deliver specific high school programs.”

The magnet concept involves students travelling to a different school to take a specific course. Wolseley, Grenfell, Cupar, Lipton, Broadview, Kipling and Whitewood are the magnet schools for the upcoming school year. Depending on the magnet group, instead of having two choices for PAA classes, students may have five to nine choices.

A fact sheet with frequently asked questions and a chart listing all the Practical and Applied Arts courses at each school is attached and is also available online at www.pvsd.ca.

Prairie Valley School Division serves approximately 8,000 students in 38 schools throughout southeast Saskatchewan. In support of the vision "Leadership in Learning and Life", the Division strives to ensure a high-quality education that provides students with the tools to reach and exceed their potential.

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For more information:

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