

# Media Release



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **RE: Change to school timetables provide greater programming options for students**

Come September, high school students attending Rocky View Schools will have greater choice, access, and flexibility to authentic learning experiences, when the jurisdiction moves to a common four block timetable format among all nine high schools.

“This alignment will allow all high school students access to both core and optional programs through emerging delivery methods such as online learning management systems, video conferencing and iGoogle,” said Superintendent of Schools Greg Bass. “Unlike the high school experience of Generation X where a teacher stood in front of a class to lecture, today’s 21<sup>st</sup> C learner can put their digital skills to good use by accessing programs and teachers from other high schools through these new instructional methods.”

Bass explained that a common timetable will allow high school students to design their education program, drawing from nine timetables as opposed to just their designated school. Courses already offered through these emerging technologies range from Math 31 to Robotics. As more and more teachers jump on board with these new technologies, he explained, students also will have additional programs to choose from such as International Baccalaureate, foreign languages, and more.

“This is a central strategy to the achievement of our Three Year Education Plan and a direction encouraged by Alberta Education; I’m happy to announce that RVS is going to be able to deliver on it,” Bass said. “My personal goal is to see every student graduate with the high school program they need and want to fulfill their personal aspirations. This is the first step to making that dream a reality.”

According to Bass, building a common timetable has been three years in the works and has involved school administrators across the system. A major impact to making it work was to modify the start and end times of many schools.

“Schools in Springbank, Airdrie, and Cochrane had to modify their start and end times to make this plan work. As a means of informing our communities, all schools have placed their 2010/11 Start and Finish Times on their websites. The jurisdiction also has a collective listing posted under “What’s New” at <http://www.rockyview.ab.ca>.

“I’m really proud of the teamwork of our school communities in bringing this vision alive. This is just another example of how Rocky View Schools’ community of learners is working together for the benefit of our students,” he said.

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#### **For more information contact:**

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