

# Media Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 23, 2020**

**RE: Cochrane Student Accommodation Plan**

Following a four-month student accommodation consultation in the Town of Cochrane, Rocky View Schools' (RVS) Board of Trustees approved, April 23, 2020, to modify seven of the town's school attendance boundaries and four schools' grade configurations to ensure all schools are utilized as efficiently as possible.

"We've seen significant student growth in the town over the last five years, which on average has climbed by five per cent," said Board Chair Fiona Gilbert. "This reconfiguration will help to balance the increasing utilization rate of RancheView School with the declining enrolments at Mitford and Elizabeth Barrett schools."

Largely impacting families living in the communities of Heritage Hills and Heartland, Gilbert explained that over the next two years changes to attendance areas and grade configurations will see:

Effective September 2020

Families residing in **Heritage Hills** designated to:

- K – Gr. 5 Elizabeth Barrett English/FI
- Gr. 6 – 8 Manachaban English/FI
- Gr. 9 –12 Cochrane High English/FI

Families residing in **Heartland** designated to:

- K – Gr. 5 Glenbow English/FI
- Gr. 6 – 8 Mitford English/Manachaban FI
- Gr. 9 – 12 Bow Valley High English/Cochrane High FI

Effective September 2021

- Glenbow and Elizabeth Barrett schools adjust grade structure from K – Gr. 5 to K – Gr. 4
- Manachaban and Mitford schools adjust grade structure from Gr. 6 – 8 to Gr. 5 – 8

According to Gilbert, as the pandemic will not allow the opportunity for student transition activities to be held this spring, families from both communities with students already enrolled in K – Gr. 7 will have the option to remain at their current school for the 2020/21 school year, with transportation services continuing to be available. However; come, September 2021, these students will be expected to move to their new designated school. Students brand new to RVS in September 2020 will be directed to their new designated school.

Gilbert further explained that as high school families were not requested to participate in the consultation meetings, Heritage Hills students currently attending Bow Valley High will have the option to continue at the school through to graduation with busing provided for these students through to the 2022/23 school year. Current Grade 8 students from Heritage Hills also will have the choice to attend either Bow Valley or Cochrane High through to Gr. 12. High school students new to the community of Heritage Hills will be expected to attend Cochrane High School starting the fall of 2020.

“Between the new attendance boundaries and the grade reconfigurations, our board believes the town’s schools will be set up to accommodate new growth,” said Gilbert. “While not ideal, the new plan should address anticipated enrolment growth until the province funds modular units, additions or new schools.”

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**For more information, contact:**

Erlene Gococo

Communications Officer

[egococo@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:egococo@rockyview.ab.ca)