

ELJHS Students for the 2026-2027 School Year

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

We are very excited to welcome you and your child to our school next year! Junior high is a dynamic and exciting time in every student's life as they develop their self-identity and establish their adolescent peer group. It is a wonderful opportunity to try many new and exciting things. Academic classes become more interesting and challenging, and students can join various teams and clubs. It is also a significant transition and will involve many difficult, but necessary, struggles as your child grows up and becomes less dependent on the adults in their life. A successful transition to adulthood will involve the development of many critical life skills while they are in junior high. These skills include:

- Making good **friend choices** from a variety of different peer groups.
- Working in teams and **negotiating conflict**.
- **Managing relationships** with peers as well as authority figures (parents and teachers).
- **Organizing** their lives to effectively complete tasks independently.
- Learning to self-advocate and **ask for help**.
- **Self-regulating** emotions and balancing life demands.
- Cultivating **passions** and recognizing limitations.
- Making responsible, safe, and ethical **choices**.
- Identifying a **path for their life** and then charting their course.
- Monitoring and **taking responsibility** for grades.

Parents sometimes feel frustrated by their children during this stage of their life. Adolescents are likely to:

- **Withdraw** from parental figures and seek other adults or friends as role models.
- Place **greater importance on friends** and social interactions.
- Seek out their own or **new peer groups** to associate with.
- Encounter **peer pressure** and feel the need to conform to the accepted ideas of the group.
- Frequently feel **social discomfort**, awkwardness, loneliness, anger, sadness, and/or anxiety.

Junior high is a **safe time and place** for children to experience problems and learn from mistakes before moving to the higher stakes of high school and their future careers. Your child will benefit from five different learning environments at our school (Family, Tutorials, Core Classes, Complementary Courses, and Houses) which help them to develop skills and transition from adolescents to young adults. These opportunities help your child to test these new waters while still having safe boundaries and the support of experienced mentors.

Junior High Family. Families meet at the start of each morning and afternoon. Each family consists of one teacher and students from grades seven, eight, and nine. Families provide positive peer support during this time in your child's life when they place greater emphasis on the opinions of peers. The family teacher serves as an academic advisor and counsellor who will guide your child throughout their three junior high years. The family teacher will be your primary contact person while your child is in junior high.

Tutorials. Tutorials follow our family period each morning. Tutorials provide time for students to complete classwork or access academic interventions at their teacher's request. Students may select their tutorial after 7:00 pm each evening. This is a great way for parents to get involved in their child's education!

Core Class. Each student is placed in a core class with students in the same grade (eg. 7A, 8B, 9C) who learn Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, Health, and Physical Education together. These students will travel together to the same classes and support each other as they engage in academic learning. Students will change their core class at the start of each academic year.

Complementary Courses: Students will rank their preferred elective courses from a list including Arts, Careers, Academics, and Athletics. These courses are an excellent way for students to explore their interests and future careers. If you would like to look at the list of complementary courses, please [click here](#).

House. Our school facility has four wings and the "families" within each wing comprise our four houses. Houses engage in friendly competition throughout the year and participate in various fun activities and service projects. They provide our students with a variety of opportunities to lead and serve their school and community with friends while developing our school values of leadership, service, and kindness.

In the coming weeks, staff and administrative teams at both schools will work collaboratively to place your child into learning environments to effectively meet their educational, emotional, and social needs. We would like **your input** during this process. **Please complete [this online form](#) by May 30.** If your child has needs that can't be captured by our form or if you have any questions about next year, please call us at (403) 782-3812.

During the month of May, we will meet with your child's current class to answer any questions they may have about Junior High and to lead them on a tour of our school (there is also a [virtual tour](#)). We are hosting a **Parent Information session** in our Study Hall at 7:30pm on **May 12**. We will also welcome you inside our school for our Welcome Breakfast on **August 31** from 7:30-9:30am. There will be a special orientation day for our grade 7 students on **September 1** with grade 8 and 9 students starting the next day on **September 2**. You can find lots of other information about our school at eljhs.wolfcreek.ab.ca. See you soon!

Sincerely,



James Matthie
Principal,

École Lacombe Junior High School