

Sakaw Family Handbook

2025-2026



**Everyone Belongs
& Everyone Grows!**

EPSB Division Vision, Mission & Values



Vision
Enhancing pathways for student success

Mission
Our commitment to high-quality public education serves the community and empowers each student to live a life of dignity, fulfilment, empathy and possibility.

Values
Accountability, collaboration, equity and integrity

 EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2022–26
Division Priorities

- 1 Build on outstanding learning opportunities for all students.
- 2 Advance action towards anti-racism and reconciliation.
- 3 Promote a comprehensive approach to student and staff well-being and mental health.



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Division Strategic Plan 2022–26

Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Build on outstanding learning opportunities for all students.	Advance action towards anti-racism and reconciliation.	Promote a comprehensive approach to student and staff well-being and mental health.
Goal 1 Recognize and support the diverse learning needs of all students.	Goal 1 Work with students, staff, families and communities to update and advance the Division's Anti-racism and Equity Action Plan each year, so it serves as the catalyst for meaningful, long-term systemic change.	Goal 1 Support students and staff in building skills, strategies and relationships that contribute to positive mental health.
Goal 2 Focus on literacy and numeracy so students demonstrate growth and achieve learning outcomes.	Goal 2 Support and enhance the educational experiences and achievements of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit families and communities.	Goal 2 Support students and staff so they experience a greater sense of belonging and social, emotional and physical well-being.
Goal 3 Promote competencies to empower students to meet the needs of a changing society, workforce and climate.		

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Dear Sakaw Students and Families,

It is with great excitement and humility that I introduce myself as the new principal of Sakaw School. I am honored to join this vibrant community and look forward to partnering with all of you to continue the tradition of excellence and to create an even brighter future for our students.

For those of you I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, my name is Crystal Lawrence, and I come to Sakaw with prior teaching experience in Special Needs, Elementary, and Junior High. I have been fortunate to serve as an Assistant Principal for several years in three prior schools with EPSB. Throughout my career, I have been driven by a simple belief: that a strong school is built on collaboration, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to the success of every child.

I believe in a student-centered approach to education, where we foster not only academic growth but also creativity, critical thinking, and a sense of belonging. We will foster integrity by encouraging honesty, respect, and responsibility. I am a firm advocate for a safe and supportive learning environment where every student feels seen, heard, and valued.

I am eager to get to know all of you—students, parents, teachers, and staff. I plan to spend the coming weeks listening and learning, and you will see me regularly in classrooms and at school events. I value student and family voice, and I encourage you to share your ideas, questions, and hopes for our school. Together, we will make this a wonderful and successful year at Sakaw.

Sincerely,

**Mrs. Crystal Lawrence
Principal**

Sakaw Family Message



**We All Belong
Everyone Grows
We Celebrate Our Diverse Culture
Kindness Comes First**





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***Respectful Learning &
Working Environments***



Edmonton Public Schools, in cooperation with its staff groups, is committed to creating a healthy, respectful learning environment for students, staff members, trustees, parents, volunteers, and contractors. We recognize the worth of every person without discrimination. We are committed to working toward the elimination of objectionable behaviour in our schools and workplaces, and to maintaining an environment that is respectful, safe, nurturing, and positive for everyone. Please help us achieve this goal by interacting in a manner which respects the dignity and value of others.

Bell Schedules

Grade 1-6 & Opportunity

**First Bell 8:24 a.m.
School Starts 8:29 a.m.
Lunch Starts 11:24 a.m.
Afternoon Bell 12:06 p.m.
School Starts 12:11 p.m.
Dismissal 3:21 p.m.**

Kindergarten

**Morning Classes: 8:24
a.m. to 11:25 a.m
Afternoon Classes
12:06 p.m. to 3:21 pm**

Thursday Early Dismissal 1:57 p.m.

**Interactions Classes
First Bell 8:30 a.m.
School Starts 8:35 a.m.
Lunch 11:24 a.m.
Afternoon 11:57 a.m.
Dismissal 2:33 p.m.**

**Thursday Early
Dismissal (for
Interactions classes
only) 2:13 p.m.**

TRAFFIC & PARKING



Safety Over Convenience

Help us keep students and staff safe.

Parents are free to park along the roadside in designated areas. Please do not enter the staff parking lot for drop off or pick up. The orange pylons at the front of the school indicate bus drop off areas, please do not park by the pylons at any time.

Supervision

School Staff supervise before school beginning at 8:14 a.m. and after school until 3:35 p.m.



On Thursdays, early dismissal is 1:57 p.m. and supervision is available until 2:07 p.m.



Late Arrivals & Leaving Early

Lates: If your child arrives to school late, they must check in at the office.

Leaving Early: If your child is ill or needs to leave school for an appointment, the office needs to be notified by a parent. We ask that all students leaving early are signed out by a parent.

School Fees

These fees are posted in accordance with Sections 6 & 7 of the Education Act School Regulation. Fee reminder sheets will go home monthly. Please pay fees on SchoolZone or in person at the main office (cash or cheque, no debit/credit available)

Lunch Supervision Fees

All students pay \$11 per month (excluding the Interactions & Opportunity programs, and bus students)

Bus Fees

Students who take the bus are expected to pay \$50 monthly

Field Trips

Field trip costs are supplemented by Sakaw's Parent Society. Individual field trips will have additional student fees to help cover the costs, communicated on field trip forms. Students are expected to pay these fees prior to the field trip in order to participate

Sakaw's Positive Behaviour Expectations



Students are expected to:

- Contribute to a welcoming, caring, inclusive, respectful & safe learning environment
- learn, practice, & demonstrate positive personal and interpersonal skills
- use their abilities & talents to gain maximum learning from school
- attend school regularly and punctually
- be accountable for their behaviour when it impacts others in the school, whether it be on or off school grounds or during school hours



Weather

School is Open!

Schools remain open, even under the most severe weather conditions. This provides a safe environment for students who choose to attend. Parents must decide whether or not to send their child during severe weather. Parents should inform school (attendance on SchoolZone or call the office) if they choose to have their child remain home.

Weather Conditions & Recess

Students will continue to have recess, even in cold, windy, or wet conditions. Students should dress appropriately. Students will have an inside recess if:

- temperatures drop to -23 degrees Celsius or below
- it is raining heavily
- the air quality reaches 7 or higher
- a heat warning has been issued



Cell Phone Use

As of 2024-2025, the Government of Alberta requires that personal tech devices (mobile phones, smart watches, iPads etc) be kept out of sight. Students will also not be able to access social media platforms on any EPSB network or device.

Students will not be permitted to use them at all during the day (including recess and lunch). Should a student choose to bring their device and it is observed, staff will refer students to the office. Staff are not responsible for lost or damaged tech they have been discouraged from bringing.



This will help:

- **ensure personal mobile devices and social media do not disrupt learning**
- **reduce distractions and bullying**
- **maximize learning time**
- **support student mental health**

We rely on parents as part of our team! Please ensure these devices remain at home.



SchoolZone

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Parents need to have a School Zone password to:

- see School News & Resources
- Learn about School Events
- Access their child's attendance, enter absences
- Track Yellow Bus Routes
- View Progress Reports & IPPs

