



March 17, 2016

## **New School Opening in McKenzie Towne**

Re: Information on school designation, grade configuration changes and more

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) is pleased to be opening a middle school in McKenzie Towne in January 2017. The CBE aims to offer a kindergarten to Grade 9 learning continuum that minimizes transitions between schools. McKenzie Highlands School in conjunction with McKenzie Towne School will make it possible to serve all kindergarten-Grade 9 students in the community. We would like to thank all the families who took time to attend or respond to the expression of interest. This information was an important part of determining the designation for students next year.

### **Grade configurations at schools that serve McKenzie Towne:**

<b>School Name</b>	<b>School Year</b>	<b>Grades</b>
McKenzie Towne	2016-2017 & Beyond	K-Grade 4
McKenzie Highlands	2016-2017	Grade 5 – Grade 8

*\*The CBE aims to offer a kindergarten-Grade 9 learning continuum that minimizes transitions between schools. The new school will not offer Grade 9 in its first year.*

### **If the new school opens in January, where will students go in the fall?**

From September through December, students will temporarily attend David Thompson School.

To make the transition to the new schools as easy as possible, we plan to place students from McKenzie Towne in classes together with the teacher(s) who will move with them. Once at the new school, the most significant change for students will be their new surroundings as classmates, teachers and learning will remain the same.

### **How do I register my child?**

Eligible students who are currently attending their designated schools McKenzie Towne or David Thompson will automatically be transferred to the new middle school when it opens.

Currently we are not accepting transfers or registrations for students who are attending other CBE schools or schools operated by other districts. Information on registration for those students will be available May 2. We expect to have enough space for all eligible students living in the community.

### **Can my child stay at David Thompson School?**

Grade eight students may choose to stay at David Thompson School for the entire 2016-17 school year.

- Please contact the school to inform them that you do not want your child automatically transferred to McKenzie Highlands middle school.

Transportation from McKenzie Towne to David Thompson School will be available for the entire 2016-17 school year. Transportation fees will apply.

Students may transfer to McKenzie Highlands middle school or remain at David Thompson for Grade 9 in 2017-18. Please note that school bus transportation from McKenzie Towne will **not** be available to David Thompson for the 2017-18 school year and beyond.

### **Who is the new school Principal?**

Kel Connelly is the principal of McKenzie Highlands middle school. Kel will start in his new role on April 4, 2016 and will work with parents and students to develop a school opening plan. To learn more about Kel please visit <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/newschool> and click on the McKenzie Highlands middle school link.

### **Can my child take the school bus?**

Students are eligible for transportation to their designated school if they live beyond the walk zone. Please visit <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/newschool> and click on the link to McKenzie Highlands middle school to see the walk zone map. General information regarding transportation services and fees is available on our website at <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/schools/busing-and-transportation/Pages/default.aspx> and through your school. All students accessing transportation are required to pay transportation fees.

Transportation to David Thompson School will be available until the end of June 2017.

### **What happens if the new school isn't ready to open in January?**

CBE is closely monitoring construction progress on all schools. If there is a delay a contingency plan will be communicated to parents. Our contingency plans will ensure the learning needs of students are met. We will keep parents and the community informed of any changes to the expected opening date.



This is an exciting time. We look forward to working with you as we welcome students to their new school.

Sincerely,



Sydney Smith  
Director, Area V



Carrie Edwards  
Director,  
Planning & Transportation

Ec: Superintendents' Team  
Principals

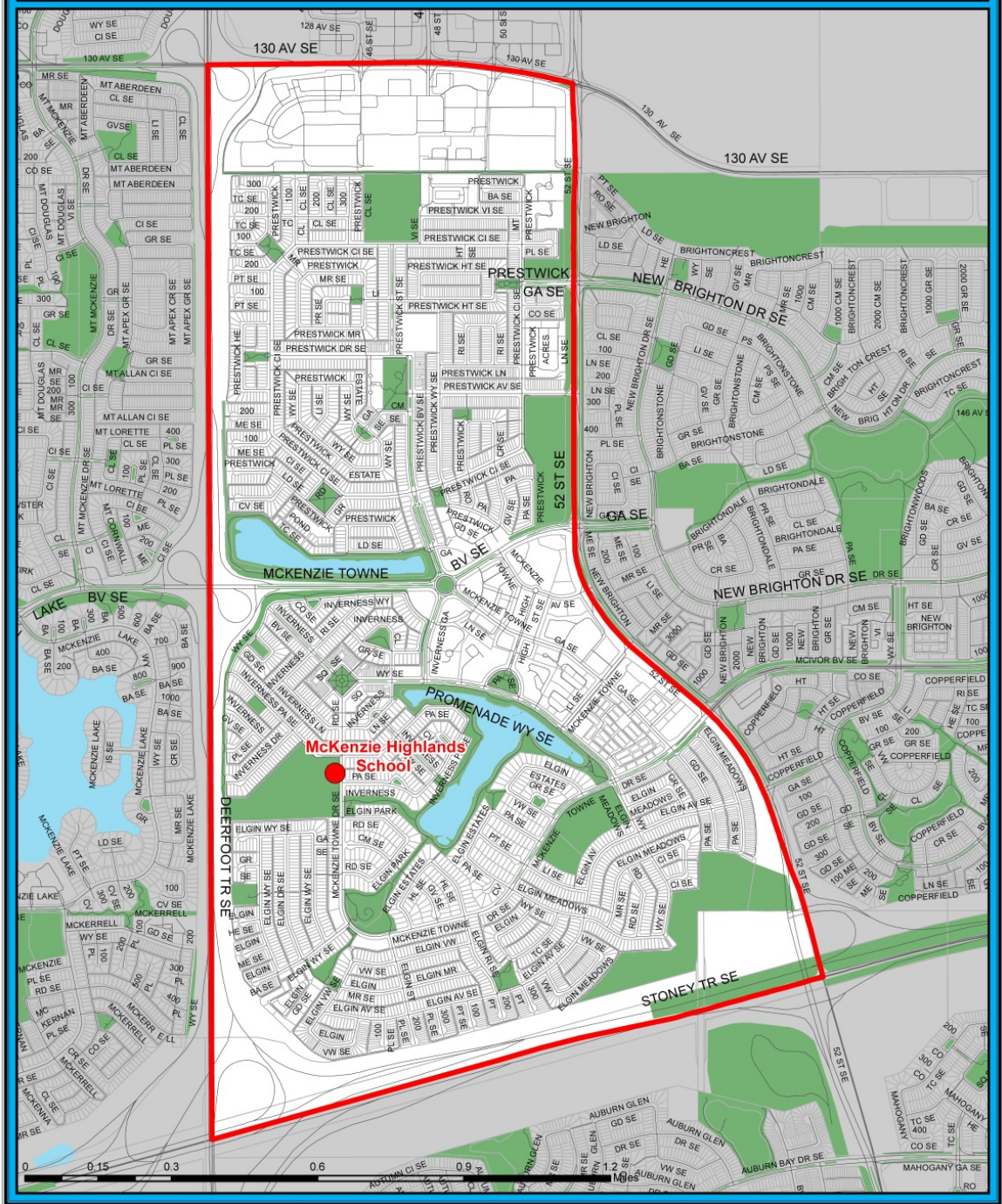




Calgary Board of Education

# Attendance Area for McKenzie Highlands School

Effective September 2016



Calgary Board of Education