

Mandate

Pembina Hills School Division's mandate is to deliver an education program consistent with the Alberta *School Act*.

Purpose/ Mission Statement

Our purpose is to ensure the delivery of an excellent education to our students so they become ethical citizens who contribute to society.

Motto

Together We Learn

Beliefs

With regard to Students we believe:

- All students will be encouraged and challenged to reach their potential.
- All students will be encouraged and challenged to live a healthy lifestyle that includes both physical and mental well-being.
- All students will be responsible and accountable for their actions and behaviours and will respect the rights and property of others.
- All students will be involved and contribute to their community.

With regard to Parents/Guardians we believe:

- Parents/guardians are a student's primary educator and caregiver.
- Parents/guardians value and support Education by preparing their children for learning.
- Parents/guardians are actively involved in Education working cooperatively with the school system for the benefit of their child.

With regard to Communities we believe:

- Communities benefit from an educated population.
- Communities have a shared responsibility to support and value education.
- Community involvement provides an engaging learning environment for our students, and communities are enriched as a result.

With regard to Learning we believe:

- All individuals can learn and experience success.
- Learning is a life-long process.
- Teachers are responsible for providing an engaging learning environment.
- All staff contribute to student success.

With regard to Our School System we believe:

- In providing a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe environment.

- In an inclusive environment that focuses on rights and responsibilities to learn for all.
- In responsiveness and accountability to all we serve.

We value success for every student. We can achieve success for every student when:

- All participants in the education system are *engaged in learning*.
- Students, staff, parents and community commit to building an inclusive culture that is *welcoming, caring, respectful and safe*, in every area of the system.
- We accept all students for who they are and what they need.
- We provide all students with a sense of *belonging*.
- We teach the *literacy* and *numeracy* skills students need to be *confident* and *competent* in school and in life.

History

Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7 came into existence on January 1, 1995.

In 1994, the Government of Alberta reduced the number of school boards from 141 in February of 1994 to 64 in March of 1995. The three former districts of Westlock School Division, the County of Barrhead and the Swan Hills School District that served a geographic area stretching from the Town of Swan Hills to east of the Town of Westlock agreed to regionalize. Historically, the Westlock and Barrhead areas had one school district, the Pembina School District, until 1947 when they became separate entities under the names of Westlock School Division and the Barrhead School Division. In 1959, the County of Barrhead came into existence so the operation of the schools fell under county administration. In that same year, the first school district in Swan Hills emerged as Oil Hills School Division.

In November 2015, the Board adopted the name Pembina Hills Public Schools for use in Division communications. The Board added the words “public schools” to clearly communicate the Division’s core business. The name change also led to an update of the Division’s 20-year-old logo.

The Pembina Hills name and logo reflect the history and the geography of the region which includes the Pembina River and the hills of Swan Hills. The motto, Together We Learn, was created collectively at one of the very first stakeholder meetings in January 1995.