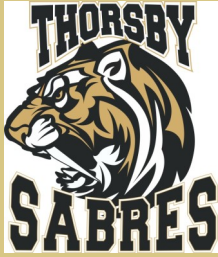


# TJSHS Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2021



## Principal's Message

Hello everyone and welcome back to a new school year at Thorsby Junior-Senior High School. My name is Theo Dykstra, your new Principal. I know many of you from working at TJSHS previously, but many of you I have yet to meet. I look forward to the opportunity to connect with all of you at some point this year.

My hope for this year is that we are able to provide some normalcy for the students. As of the start of this school year, the students have been able to select their options, move around to different classrooms, and participate in extracurricular activities. However, we have already experienced some changes as new restrictions need to be followed. This reminds me of a conversation I had with a friend recently; usually, I attempt to work hard to avoid problems from occurring. I was reminded that my job is not to get rid of the problems but to work through them effectively when they arise. I believe that this is a wise approach for this school year in general, whether staff, student, or parent/guardian. There are too many factors outside of our control to think that we won't have problems to deal with, so rather than be irritated by the problems, we must work together to solve them as they arise. While there may be disagreements, I am confident that all of us have the common goal of doing what is best for our students. If we keep that in mind, I know that we can be an effective team as we progress through another year with many unknowns.

I have two goals for this year. First, that every student feels connected and safe in the school. If we seek to listen to others, rather than convincing them we are 'right', and we value the right of others to hold different opinions, I know this is achievable. Second, I want every student to experience success. For some this may be in academics, for others it may be in an extracurricular activity, and for others, it may be relationally. Experiencing success means holding students to a high but reachable standard so that when they achieve success, they feel that they have truly accomplished something. The role of the school is to provide the opportunities and support to help the students achieve this. While some may argue that academic success should be our priority, learning doesn't happen without the presence of safety and relationships.

While I hope that this is a more 'normal' year than the past two for our students, I hope that we are ready to work together as the challenges that will inevitably arise come our way. I encourage you to reach out to the school if you ever have any questions. We are all here to support our students to help them succeed.



## Contact Information

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Look for **Thorsby Junior Senior High School** on Facebook!



Thorsby Student Union is also on Instagram and Snapchat.



Instagram: **ths\_studentsunion**

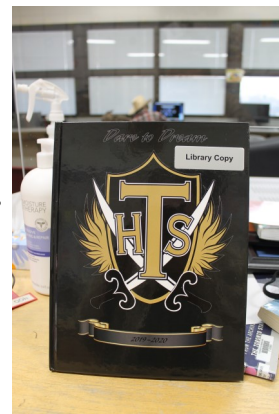
Snapchat: **thorsbyschool**

Watch for details on upcoming events happening at the high school!

## 2020-2021 Yearbook

The 20/21 yearbooks are being printed as we speak! They should be here mid-late October.

If you didn't order one, that is fine. We will have extras for sale for \$50!



## COVID Daily Screening

Please remember to stay home if you are not feeling well. Here are the screening questions for all school aged children. If a student is feeling unwell in any way please work through this guide.

1.	<b>Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following core symptoms:</b>		
<b>Fever</b>	Temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or higher	YES	NO
<b>Cough</b>	Continuous, more than usual, not related to other known causes or conditions such as asthma	YES	NO
<b>Shortness of breath</b>	Continuous, unable to breathe deeply, not related to other known causes or conditions such as asthma	YES	NO
<b>Loss of sense of smell or taste</b>	Not related to other known causes or conditions like allergies or neurological disorders	YES	NO
<p><b>If the child answered "YES" to any symptom in question 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The child is required to isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms as per <a href="#">CMOH Order 39-2021</a> OR receive a negative COVID-19 test and feel better before returning to activities</li> <li>Use the <a href="#">AHS Online Assessment Tool</a> or call Health Link 811 to arrange for testing and to receive additional information on isolation.</li> </ul> <p><b>If the child answered "NO" to all of the symptoms in question 1, proceed to question 2.</b></p>			
2.	<b>Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following other symptoms:</b>		
<b>Chills</b>	Without fever, not related to being outside in cold weather	YES	NO
<b>Sore throat/painful swallowing</b>	Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or reflux	YES	NO
<b>Runny nose/congestion</b>	Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or being outside in cold weather	YES	NO
<b>Feeling unwell/fatigued</b>	Lack of energy, poor feeding in infants, not related to other known causes or conditions, such as depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction or sudden injury	YES	NO
<b>Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea</b>	Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as anxiety, medication or irritable bowel syndrome	YES	NO
<b>Unexplained loss of appetite</b>	Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as anxiety or medication	YES	NO
<b>Muscle/joint aches</b>	Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as arthritis or injury	YES	NO
<b>Headache</b>	Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as tension-type headaches or chronic migraines	YES	NO
<b>Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)</b>		YES	NO
<p><b>If the child answered "YES" to ONE symptom in question 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep your child home and monitor for 24 hours.</li> <li>If their symptom is <b>improving</b> after 24 hours, they can return to school and activities when they feel well enough to go. Testing is not necessary.</li> <li>If the symptom <b>does not improve or worsens</b> after 24 hours (or if additional symptoms emerge), use the <a href="#">AHS Online Assessment Tool</a> or call Health Link 811 to check if testing is recommended.</li> </ul> <p><b>If the child answered "YES" to TWO OR MORE symptoms in question 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep your child home.</li> <li>Use the <a href="#">AHS Online Assessment Tool</a> or call Health Link 811 to determine if testing is recommended.</li> <li>Your child can return to school and activities once their symptoms go away as long as it has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started.</li> </ul> <p><b>If the child answered "NO" to all questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child may attend school, childcare and/or other activities.</li> </ul>			

## Meet our Staff

We have an amazing staff this year! Please take a few minutes to get to know them.

the  
best  
teachers  
teach  
from  
the  
heart  
not  
from  
the  
book.

### Mrs. Lorelei McLeod



My name is Lorelei McLeod. I'm the head secretary at TJSHS. I've been with Black Gold since 2011, and with TJSHS since 2012. I have 2 children. My daughter just graduated from Concordia University last spring with her Education degree. My son is in grade 12 at Warburg High School. I enjoy camping with family and friends, hanging at the lake, and riding my horses.

### Ms Brilene Wohlgemuth



Hello, my name is Brilene Wohlgemuth and this will be my fourth teaching at Thorsby Junior Senior High! This year I am teaching English 30, English 20-1, English 9, CALM and Options.

The highlight of my summer was definitely getting a Golden-doodle puppy named Minky and spending all my time off with her. I actually only spent 6 days total at my house this summer; instead, Minky and I chose to stay out at the lake. I also took a small trip to Niagara Falls for my birthday. I had less reading time than usual but my favorite book of the summer was *Monday's Not Coming*. I look forward to an amazing 2021/2022 school year!

## Mrs. Sam Sauer



My name is Samantha Sauer. I have been at Thorsby since the 2008-2009 school year when I graduated from the University of Alberta. I also completed my Masters in Education in Curriculum Studies through the University of New Brunswick in May 2016. I am looking forward to this upcoming school year and will be teaching Social Studies 7-10, English Language Arts 10-2/20-2, in addition to Art & Film Studies for junior high. In my free time, I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, reading, baking and gardening.

## Mrs. Van Steenis



Hi! My name is Kim van Steenis and I am a THS teacher! I have worked at the school since 2001 teaching English, Social, Foods and Art at the Junior and Senior levels. I also facilitate the Off-Campus Education Program (Work Experience, RAP and Green Certificate) and do some post-secondary counselling. I am a teacher who is both fun and tough. Kids tell me I have high expectations, but I am a big believer in the talents and abilities of our students and try hard to keep my programs and the student's education experiences top notch. I hope to continue working at the school and being a part of students' lives. Out of school I am a dedicated mother, wife, daughter, sister, and of course... sport parent! You can find me in the winter and spring in town watching hockey or baseball (or on the road travelling to a game...lol), and in the summer you can find me at the golf course with my boys! My two amazing sons, Adam and Levi, are the center of my life and I love being able to spend time with them whenever I can. I am currently enjoying living at Pigeon Lake and being part of the local community. I am known for my cooking, gardening, decorating, and creative side and I'm always finding new interests and challenges which makes life exciting!



## Mrs. Cheryl Raugust



Hello! My name is Cheryl Raugust and this is my 7th year at TJSHS! I split my days up in the Library and as Finance Secretary in the Office. I am so excited to see the students back and have them able to come to the Library!

In my downtime, you can find me quilting or reading. I also enjoy camping with my husband, Jody and sometimes our kids, Riley and Jillian. We are looking forward to a wedding next October when Riley marries his girlfriend, Corbin

## Mrs. Kathy Verhun



I am Kathy Verhun, an Educational Assistant at TJSHS. I have many years experience as an EA. My husband and I live on a farm outside of town. We have two sons, their significant others and two precious grandchildren.

## Ms Miranda Forster



My name is Miranda Forster and I have been an Education Assistant for 5 years in the Black Gold School Division and have completed my Educational Assistant Certificate through Red Deer College. This school year I get to be a part of the TJSHS team which is super exciting. Last year my boyfriend Cameron and I bought our first house together, and got a dog named Jager. Things I enjoy are cooking/baking, hunting and fishing!

## Mr. Ed Van Horn



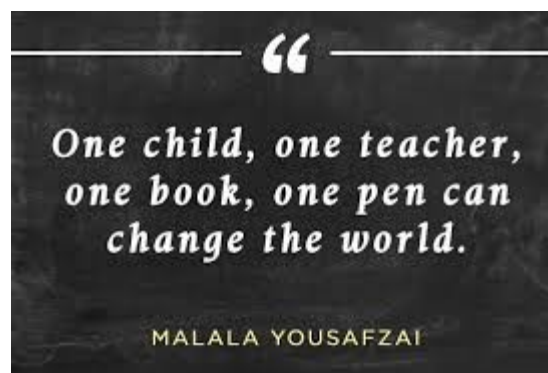
My name is Ed Van Horn and I have taught in Thorsby Junior Senior High School for over Ten years. I have been with Black Gold Regional Schools for over twenty years. I teach Math and Science to the Junior High students and Biology, Chemistry and Math to the Senior High students. I am happily married to my wife Donna for nearly thirty years and I have two wonderful daughters. Paige is twenty-two and completing an Education after degree at Concordia University and Carmen is nineteen and is in her second year of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Alberta. Our family enjoys camping in the summer months and skiing in the winter. We like to ski at Marmot Basin in Jasper and Panarama. I enjoy playing golf and hockey with the occasional mix of curling in the winter. I am excited to back in the classroom this season and look forward to seeing everyone in the community throughout the year.

## Mr. Tyler Verge



My name is Tyler Verge. This is my first year in Thorsby Jr/Sr High School but I have been teaching with Black Gold Regional Schools for four years now. I am originally from Newfoundland where I graduated with A B.Sc. in Mathematics minoring in Physics. I then moved to Alberta to work in the oil field where I worked for 10 years. I then decided to pursue a B.Ed. from the University of Alberta.

In school I teach Math and Science at both the Jr and Sr High levels. I am always trying to get kids involved in Math through the Math Help Center or through Math Competitions that are held weekly. I'm married to my wife Micheala and we have two wonderful children, the youngest of which always tries to keep us on our toes. In my spare time I like to play fantasy hockey and football a little too much, and I like sitting outside to a nice fire with my family.



## Mrs. Jody Mitchell



Hi my name is Jody Mitchell. I enjoy working as an Educational Assistant at TJSHS. I live at Pigeon Lake with my husband and 4 children. We love spending time entertaining family and friends. I look forward to spending another school year with all the kids.

## Mrs. Kim Engler



My name is Kim Engler and I have been a teacher here at Thorsby Junior Senior High School for 6 years! My first grade 7 class is graduating this year!! In 2021-2022 I am teaching Grade 7 Language Arts. I am also here for you in the office as a Counsellor and Learning Support Teacher. I also help out Mrs van Steenis with some Guidance Counselling, but she is the expert! Outside of school, my husband and I live in Sherwood Park with Owen and Olivia, our 2 awesome kids, Emilie and Sophie, our 2 westie dogs and a cockatiel named Dorian. This summer I had fun at my house, hanging out with my family that finally got to visit, growing fruit and veggies in our gardens and greenhouses and reading books. I'm looking forward to a fun and amazing school year!

## Mrs. Shelley Gramlich



I have been teaching in Thorsby since the 1999/2000 school year. In the time that I have been at Thorsby, I have taught CTS-Information Processing, Design, Communications Technology, Computing Science, Digital Media, Robotics, Esthetics and Cosmetology, L.A., Social, Math, French, Phys Ed, Psychology and Sciences, as well as facilitating several online courses and options. I am a Certified Yoga Instructor, Swim (Red Cross and Royal Lifesaving NLS) Syncro, Therapeutic Foster Caregiver, freelance writer and have coached cheerleading. I have 5 adult daughters and 15 grandchildren, ranging in age from 0 months to 24 years old. I also have two foster children and three cats. My interests and hobbies are too diverse and numerous to list.



## Mr. Theo Dykstra



Hello, my name is Theo Dykstra and I have the pleasure of being the principal of Thorsby Junior Senior High School this year and hopefully for many years to come. This will actually be my fourth year at the school as I taught here for three years previously. I am super excited to be back and have felt extremely welcomed over the past few weeks as we started this school year. Outside of my role at the school, I live with my wife and children in Leduc. With the start of the school year, I also look forward to supporting my kids in their volleyball and music programs. I will soon be attending early morning weekend games, and working on being a positive fan. In reality, volleyball officiating can drive me crazy. I'm also a huge fan of coffee! I greatly appreciate the students at THS as well as the support I receive from the parents that I have the pleasure to talk to and work with.



## Mr. Brent Proc

I am excited to be part of the staff of Thorsby Jr/Sr High School. I grew up in the Calmar area and graduated from Calmar High School. I attended the University of Alberta, receiving a Bachelor of Education degree. My teaching experience includes 12 years with Black Gold and Parkland School Divisions. My goal for the CTS (industrial arts) program is to provide students with a wide range of interesting and unique projects. My hobbies include woodworking, hunting, fishing and numerous other outdoor activities.



## Ms Holly Breitkreuz

I'm Ms. B but can also call me Ms Holly. I have always been a part of the Thorsby community. This is my second year working as an EA in Thorsby. If you see me in the hallway, come say Hi!

## Mrs. Rebecca Riley



Hi! I'm Rebecca Riley. This will be my third year at Thorsby Jr/Sr High School. I'll be teaching Science 8, Math 9, Senior High French and Music this year. I'm excited to see what this year has in store for us!

We welcome any donations of instruments for our band program! If you have any that you want to get out of your basement, let us know at the school! (780 789 3983)



## Mr. Jonah Feil

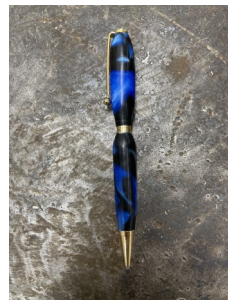


Welcome back to another year at Thorsby junior/senior high school. My name is Mr. Feil and will be teaching primarily Physical Education this year. If you ever need to find me I will likely be in the gym or off with a sports team somewhere, as we are allowed to run athletic programs again this year! Wahoo! Over the summer I spent time with my wife, Emily and our two dogs (Boo and Charlie). I also went golfing a lot... probably too much according to my wife. My wife and I did our usual visit to BC on a couple of occasions to visit my family on Vancouver Island. I hope everyone has a great year! Stay safe everyone

If you found any library or textbooks over the summer, you can still bring them back! If books are returned, charges on your power school account will be dropped.

Library is open this year to students. Come on in but still feel free to use the Hold function on our Library home page.

## Shop Pictures



Our CTS Shop kids have had a busy couple of weeks! Some nice projects coming out of the shop!





ELECTRONIC RECYCLING ASSOCIATION'S 4TH ANNUAL

# Kids Poster Contest

**September 1st, 2021**  
**to December 1st, 2021**

Show us what reducing, reusing, and recycling electronics looks like to you!

**WIN A LAPTOP!**



ELECTRONIC RECYCLING ASSOCIATION | 1.877.9EWASTE | WWW.ERA.CA



# TJSHS

## Customize Your Spirit Wear

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**Free Shipping on orders over \$75**

**ORDER YOUR  
SPIRIT WEAR  
ONLINE!**

**SHOP NOW**



Go to: [thorsbyjuniorseniorhighschool.entripyshops.com](http://thorsbyjuniorseniorhighschool.entripyshops.com)

Click on "+Register"

Fill out your information and click "Register"

Click on the item you want to buy to be brought to the customizing screen

On the customizing screen, choose your shirt colour, your design, and your size

Click on the different views underneath the product picture to get a look at the arms and back of the product

To add personalizations:

- a. click a view of either the arm or back of the product
- b. check off one of the check boxes depending on whether you want your name or number on the product
- c. type your name or number into the text box

If you want to add multiple items to your order, click the red box that says *Add Multiple Sizes* and fill out the quantity boxes.

Once you have your order put together, click the blue BUY button and follow the instructions on the next screen.

Feel free to contact Cheryl Raugust or Lorelei McLeod at the school, 780-789-3983

## BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Monthly Calendar							Teacher Days	Student Days	Dates & Details	
AUGUST 2021	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	4	1	August 26 & 27 - Teacher Workdays (No Students) August 30 or 31 - Staggered Entry for Grades 1 - 12 Students
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
SEPTEMBER 2021	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	21	20	September 1 - School Commences for ALL Grades 1 - 12 Students September 6 - Labour Day (Schools Closed) September 17 - PD Day: School-Based (No Students): (Morning) Welcome Back & LSA Ceremony (To follow) PD Day: School-Based
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
OCTOBER 2021	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	20	19	October 6 - Early Dismissal October 11 - Thanksgiving Day (Schools Closed) October 12 - PD Day: School-Based & Support Staff (No Students) Diploma Exam
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
NOVEMBER 2021	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	17	17	November 3 - Early Dismissal November 8 - 12 - Midterm Break (Schools Closed) November 11 - Remembrance Day (Schools Closed) Diploma Exam
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
DECEMBER 2021	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	13	12	December 1 - Early Dismissal December 3 - PD Day: Combined (No Students) December 20 - 31 - Christmas Vacation (Schools Closed)
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
JANUARY 2022	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	21	20	January 3 - School Resumes January 5 - Early Dismissal January 31 - PD Day: ATA (No Students) Diploma Exam & PAT Administrative Window Diploma Exam Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT)
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
FEBRUARY 2022	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	19	17	Semester 1: August 26, 2021 - January 31, 2022 Semester 2: Commences February 1, 2022 February 1 - Semester 2 Commences February 2 - Early Dismissal February 10 & 11 - ATA Teachers' Convention (No Students) February 21 - Family Day (Schools Closed)
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
MARCH 2022	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	19	18	March 2 - Early Dismissal March 11 - PD Day: Combined (No Students) March 28 - 31 - Spring Break (Schools Closed) Diploma Exam
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
APRIL 2022	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	18	17	April 1 - Spring Break (Schools Closed) & Diploma Exam April 4 - School Resumes & Diploma Exam April 6 - Early Dismissal April 15 - Good Friday (Schools Closed) April 18 - Easter Monday/Midterm Break (Schools Closed) April 29 - PD Day: Combined (No Students) Diploma Exam
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
MAY 2022	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	21	19	May 4 - Early Dismissal May 19 - PD Day: School-Based (No Students) May 20 - PD Day: ATA (No Students) May 23 - Victoria Day (Schools Closed) Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
JUNE 2022	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	22	20	June 1 - Early Dismissal June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples Day (Regular Classes Scheduled) June 28 - Last School Day with Diploma Exam June 29 & 30 - Teacher Workdays (No Students) Diploma Exam & PAT Administrative Window Diploma Exam
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
Semester 2: February 1 - June 30, 2022								99	91	
TOTAL - Operational Days-Teachers / Instructional Days-Students							195	180	Aug-Dec/21: 75-T & 69-S; Jan-June/22: 120-T & 111-S	

APPROVED - January 20, 2021

# September 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 <i>Picture Day</i> <i>PTA Meeting</i>	15	16	17 <i>PD Day</i> <i>No school</i>	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 <i>No School</i> <i>National Day</i> <i>for Truth and</i> <i>Reconcillia-</i> <i>tion</i>		

# October 2021

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3	4	5	6 <i>Early Dismissal</i>	7	8	9
10		12 <i>PD Day No school</i>	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 