

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 27, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Curriculum Addition
ORIGINATOR: M. de Man, Department Head
RESOURCE
STAFF: Bob Boruszcak, Sid Shurgarman, Stuart Wachowicz

RECOMMENDATION

That the locally developed course **Horsemanship 7/8/9** be approved for use in the district

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Background: Horse Hill School requested the development and approval of this academically rigorous course which will provide students with learning opportunities, not normally available, and allow them to make use of specialized facilities that exist in the Horse Hill community.

The course, while focusing on the theory and practice of caring for and handling horses, also will serve to provide practical application of knowledge and skills learned in the core courses of mathematics, social studies, science and language arts, as well as aspects of character education. The linkages to outcomes in the courses mentioned are detailed in the Horsemanship curriculum.

Science: Biology related units in Plant and Animal Science and Environment

Mathematics: Calculations in the area of feed requirements, size and weight of animals, growth rates and budget design for feeding and care

Social Studies: The historical importance of the horse throughout the ages, and the cultural and economic impact of the horse in society. This will include the opening and pioneering of Alberta.

English Language Arts: Research and writing skills

To ensure students who may suffer from horse related allergies are protected, parents will be well informed about all aspects of the course and its implementation. This will be done in a manner similar to that described in the field trip policy. Course registration forms will be developed that will require parental signature and approval for the student to enroll in the course. the form will also allow for the identification of allergy problems. Appropriate steps will be taken to protect and safeguard student health, and to prevent exposure to horse related allergens, for those who may be adversely effected.

All instruction must be provided by or directly supervised by a certified teacher. The instruction in Horsemanship must be provided by a person who has had extensive background and training in the subject and who has qualifications acceptable to recognized equestrian training centres. The equestrian facility must be within twenty minutes transportation time from the school in which the students are enrolled, and the facility must be a safe riding environment with well trained staff and with appropriate safety training and equipment.

A copy of the course is available for viewing in the Trustees' Reading Room.

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