

Division NEWS

Staffing Announcement - École Pine Grove Middle School



Immediate Release: April 30, 2025 - [Grande Yellowhead Public School Division](#) (GYPSD) is pleased to announce that Mr. Steven Ripkens will continue as Principal of École Pine Grove Middle School (PGMS) in Edson for the 2025/26 school year.

The Division had recently announced the decision to move away from the current shared principal model between PGMS and Parkland Composite High School (PCHS) that has guided both schools over the last two years, and return to a dedicated school administrative team at each site. Superintendent, Dr. Dennis Parsons, and Assistant Superintendent, Kurt Scobie, have met with both schools' staff to discuss the upcoming plans.

Mr. Scobie shared, "This is not a reflection on the leadership or efforts that have been in place—in fact, we're deeply grateful for the hard work and commitment that have gone into leading both schools. This decision is about focusing leadership and resources as each school's staff, students, and families have their own unique strengths and needs, and we believe having a principal fully dedicated to each site will help both schools continue to grow and thrive."

Mr. Ripkens is a strong believer in a well rounded educational experience, by providing students with a broad range of learning opportunities to support their core studies. He is committed to creating a learning environment where every student feels welcome, and achieves to the best of their ability.

Each school's administrative team will also have designated assistant principals at each school; Assistant Principal Kristin Basaraba will be assigned to PGMS, while Assistant Principals Ryan Hall and Michelle Downing, will be assigned to PCHS. The fourth Assistant Principal, Jennifer Albrecht, is currently the Principal at Niton Central School until the end of this school year.

The selection process for the principalship of Parkland Composite High School will be posted in the near future.