

2025/2026

Balwin Family Handbook

Welcome to the Balwin Family

CAPABLE. CONFIDENT. CONNECTED



#BALWINFAMILY



COGITO

Academic Excellence



Vision

Enhancing pathways for student success

Mission

Our commitment to high-quality public education serves the community and empowers each student to live a life of dignity, fulfilment, empathy and possibility.

Values

Accountability, collaboration, equity and integrity

2022–26

Division Priorities

- 1 Build on outstanding learning opportunities for all students.
- 2 Advance action towards anti-racism and reconciliation.
- 3 Promote a comprehensive approach to student and staff well-being and mental health.

2022–26

Division Strategic Plan

Priority 1

Build on outstanding learning opportunities for all students.

Goal 1
Recognize and support the diverse learning needs of all students.

Goal 2
Focus on literacy and numeracy so students demonstrate growth and achieve learning outcomes.

Goal 3
Promote competencies to empower students to meet the needs of a changing society, workforce and climate.

Priority 2

Advance action towards anti-racism and reconciliation.

Goal 1
Work with students, staff, families and communities to update and advance the Division's Anti-racism and Equity Action Plan each year, so it serves as the catalyst for meaningful, long-term systemic change.

Goal 2
Support and enhance the educational experiences and achievements of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit families and communities.

Priority 3

Promote a comprehensive approach to student and staff well-being and mental health.

Goal 1
Support students and staff in building skills, strategies and relationships that contribute to positive mental health.

Goal 2
Support students and staff so they experience a greater sense of belonging and social, emotional and physical well-being.



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Welcome Message

Carolyn Mathew, Principal

Balwin School–You Belong Here!



Welcome to the Balwin Family! At Balwin School, we focus on high quality programming to support the needs of all students, and we are very fortunate to have exceptional staff. We are incredibly excited for this school year.

Balwin School is a family that works, plays and learns together. **We are Capable, Confident, and Connected.** Balwin has a richly diverse population. This diversity creates vibrancy and is our strength. Our school community continues to ensure all students and staff are seen, valued and understood.

Balwin School aligns with Edmonton Public Schools' Vision, Mission and Values. Our work is driven by the District's Strategic Plan, which includes three priorities and strategic goals.

I look forward to the year ahead and am honoured to be the principal of Balwin School. Please know that I am available to meet and discuss any concerns and questions you have. Together we can create the future we want for our children. I look forward to our partnership to ensure that your child has an enriching and rewarding time at Balwin.

Most importantly, thank you for choosing Balwin for your child. I am also a parent and I know how important it is that your child is safe and cared for while they learn and play. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns at carolyn.mathew@epsb.ca or at 780-475-3646.





EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Respectful Learning and Working Environments

Edmonton Public Schools, in cooperation with its staff groups, is committed to creating a healthy, respectful learning environment for students, staff members, trustees, parents, volunteers and contractors.

We recognize the worth of every person without discrimination. We are committed to working toward the elimination of objectionable behaviour in our schools and workplaces, and to maintaining an environment that is respectful, safe, nurturing and positive for everyone.

Please help us achieve this goal by interacting in a manner which respects the dignity and value of others.



CC4° Tatawaw...There is room. You are welcome.

- We strive to meet misunderstanding with care and communication.
- We build bridges in both directions.
- We are Capable, Confident and Connected.
- We have a collective role in creating and meeting expectations.

**Is it safe?
Is it helpful?
Is it welcoming?**

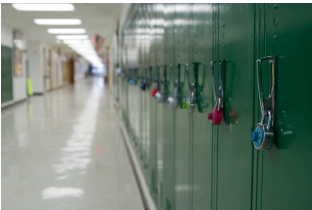
Bell Schedule Elementary K-6

First Bell 8:28 a.m.
School Starts 8:35 a.m.
Lunch Starts 11:31 a.m.
Afternoon Bell 12:10 p.m.
School Starts 12:15 p.m.
Dismissal 3:16 p.m.

Thursday Dismissal 2:15 p.m.



Bell Schedule Junior High Grades 7-9



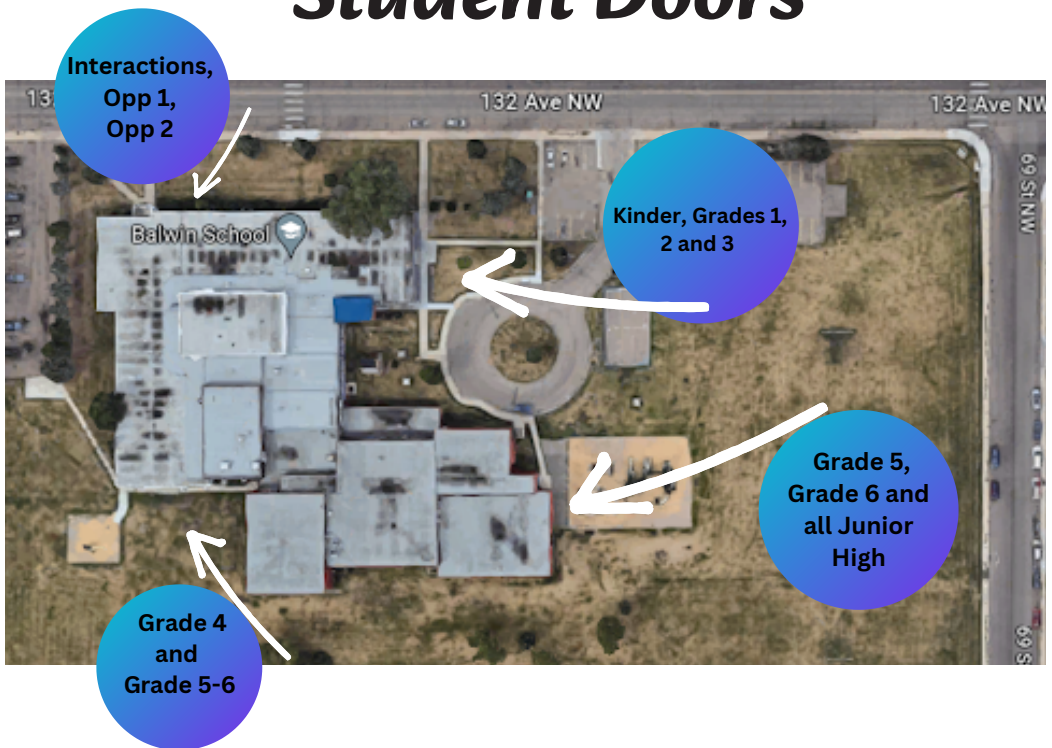
First Bell Prepare to start the morning	8:28-8:35
Block 1	8:35-9:28
Block 2	9:31-10:24
Block 3	10:27-11:20
Announcements and Community Skills	11:20-11:27 11:27-11:37
Lunch	11:37-12:25
First Bell Prepare to start the afternoon	12:25-12:30
Block 4	12:30-1:23
Block 5	1:26-2:19 Thursday 1:26-2:05
Block 6	2:22-3:15
Dismissal	3:15 Thursday 2:15

Traffic and Parking

Due to construction and road work, this page will be updated as soon as possible.



Student Doors



School Fees

These fees are posted in accordance with Sections 6 & 7 of the Education Act School Fees Regulation (Alberta Regulation 95/2019).

The list below includes every school fee that may be charged for every grade. It is important to note that you would only have to pay for items applicable to your child and that some fees may be lower than projected.

At the commencement of classes, we will confirm your fees with you and explain what they are for. Where fees cover consumable supplies, families have the option of bringing their own supplies of similar quality and specifications in lieu of paying that portion of the fees.

Elementary and Junior High

Lunch Supervision Fees

(Students in the Opportunity and Interactions programs do not have this fee).

- Annual Elementary 112.00
- Annual Junior High 90.00

Activity Fees

Field Trips 7-9 \$10.00

Field Trips K-6 \$10.00

Interactions classes \$50.00

Other Fees

Basic School Supplies and Backpack \$10.00

Non-Curricular Goods and Services

Agenda Books \$10.00

Locks \$7.00

Grade 7-9 Fees for CTF Courses

Art \$10.00

3D Printing and Design \$10.00

CTS Construction \$10.00

Fine Arts (Ceramics) \$10.00

Horticulture \$10.00

Robotics \$10.00

New--Other Fees

Refundable Chromebook deposit \$75.00



Extracurricular Fees

Dungeons and Dragons Club \$20.00

Sports Teams

Slo-Pitch Co-Ed \$20.00

Volleyball \$25.00

Badminton \$20.00

Basketball \$25.00

Rugby \$20.00

Soccer \$20.00



School Staff supervise before school beginning at 8:13

School Staff supervise for 10 minutes after school until 3:25 for elementary and until 3:26 for junior high.

Supervision

On Thursdays, dismissal is 2:15 for elementary and supervision is until 2:25.

On Thursdays, dismissal is 2:05 for junior high and supervision is until 2:15.



Arriving at School Late or Leaving School Early

Lates: If your child arrives to school late, they MUST sign in at the main office.

Leaving early: If your child needs to leave school for an appointment or for illness, we need a parent to let us know. Depending on the age of your child, we ask that they are signed out by a parent or that they sign themselves out before they leave.

In all cases, we must have direct communication with a parent/guardian.

Positive Behaviour Expectations at Balwin

Personal devices of any kind are not allowed in classrooms during instruction.

Devices will be locked in secure lock boxes for each homeroom.

Junior High students can access their devices at lunch.

Elementary students who bring devices to school (we discourage this) are not allowed to use them at all during the day (not at recess or at lunch).

The provincial government has set these minimum standards for the school year to:

- *ensure personal mobile devices and social media do not disrupt learning*
- *reduce distractions and bullying*
- *maximize learning time*
- *support student mental health*



Do you know what apps your child is using and why?



We Rely on Parents as Partners!

Please keep track of the electronic apps your child is using and why. Have them update you on their passwords and make sure you are able to access their devices. This will help us all support them in the digital choices they make and in social relationships further down the road.



- Balwin is a **CLOSED CAMPUS** for lunch. Students are **NOT** allowed to leave school property.
- Balwin is a **HOODS DOWN** school.
- **Food delivery services** (Skip the Dishes, Uber Eats, etc.) are **NOT** allowed at Balwin.



Respectful Clothing

Balwin School expects students and staff to dress in a manner that is consistent with respectful work environments.



Students should be dressed comfortably and professionally, and the following guidelines apply:

- No bandanas (headwear of a religious nature may be worn)
- No offensive language, pictures or insinuations on clothing
- No images of weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, e-cigarettes or inhalants
- No images, language or symbols of gang activity

If a student comes to school inappropriately dressed, they will be lent clothing that meets the dress code or sent home to change once parents or guardians are notified.



Weather



Schools need to remain open even under the most severe weather conditions to provide a safe environment for students who choose to attend. It is up to parents to decide whether or not to send their child to school on days with severe weather—parents should inform schools if they choose to keep their child home.

Bad Weather and Recess

Recess is an important break from the regular school routine and gives students a chance to get fresh air and exercise. Schools will continue to have morning and afternoon recess breaks, even in bad weather so students should dress appropriately.

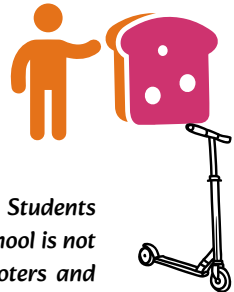
Students will only be kept inside during recess if:

- **it's raining heavily**
- **temperatures drop to -23 degrees Celsius**
- **the AQHI reaches 7 (air quality)**
- **a heat warning has been issued**

Morning Meal Program

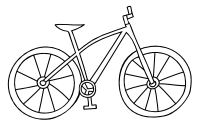
We have a morning meal program daily that is open and available to all students.

The morning meal program runs from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.



Bicycles and Other Wheeled Devices

Students may bring their bicycles to school as long as they lock them up. Students must not ride their bicycles on the school grounds during school hours. The school is not responsible for any items stolen if not locked up. Roller blades, heelys, scooters and skateboards are not to be used on school property during school hours.



Elementary After School Sports Program

Registration is OPEN for students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 attending participating schools, for the 2025-26 school year.

Grade 9 Farewell

Grade 9 students need to have 90% attendance to qualify to attend the Grade 9 Farewell Celebration at the end of the year. This includes both absences and lates. Attendance will be monitored each semester. Students can earn their way back onto the farewell celebration list by making and following through on an attendance contract with their homeroom teacher.

LOCKERS

Teachers will assign lockers for student individual use. Students must use a combination lock. They are responsible for the security and tidiness of their locker. All personal items and books are to be kept in their own locker. Students are not to tamper with locks or lockers and should not give their combination to other students, not even friends. Students need to get books and other materials from their locker before morning classes, at lunch and then before afternoon classes. At the school's discretion lockers may be searched.



Progress Reports

Progress Reports will be released on SchoolZone on January 29, 2026, and June 23, 2026.

Junior High individual student reports will be released on SchoolZone on November 20, 2025, March 12, 2026 and April 16, 2026 .





2025 – 26 School Year Calendar

 EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AUGUST • 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER • 2025

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	1	2				6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER • 2025

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NOVEMBER • 2025

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER • 2025

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY • 2026

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY • 2026

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH • 2026

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL • 2026

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY • 2026

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE • 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

LEGEND

- Public Holiday
- PD Day (no students)
- First/Last Day of Classes
- Operational Day (no students)
- Teachers' Convention
- Teachers' Day in Lieu (no teachers or students)
- Board Approved Non-Instructional Day (no teachers or students)
- Winter/Spring Break

Important dates

First Operational Day (no students)	August 29
First Day of Classes	September 2
Winter Break	Dec. 22 – Jan. 2
Teachers' Convention	February 26 – 27
Spring Break	Mar. 30 – Apr. 2
Last Day of Classes	June 23
Last Operational Day	June 24

Approved holidays

Labour Day	September 1
The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	September 30
Thanksgiving	October 13
Remembrance Day	November 11
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26
New Year's Day	January 1
Family Day	February 16
Good Friday	April 3
Easter Monday	April 6
Victoria Day	May 18

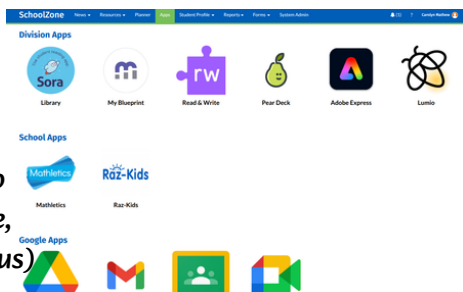
Dates of significance

Yom Kippur	October 2
Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas	October 20
Winter Solstice	December 21
Lunar New Year	February 17
Eid al-Fitr	March 20
Eid al-Adha	May 27
National Indigenous Peoples Day and Summer Solstice	June 21

SchoolZone

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Parents need to have a SchoolZone password to see school news, events, their child's attendance, progress reports, track their bus (if on yellow bus) and so much more!



Parents can even report attendance online! Please contact the office if you need help with this!

**Thank you for choosing
Balwin School!**



#BALWINFAMILY