

# Adult Student Newsletter Semester 2, 2019/20



Learning Without Limits

Greetings adult Vista Virtual School student! Let us take the opportunity to thank you for choosing Vista Virtual School to assist you in reaching your academic goals. The aim of this newsletter is to provide you with information and background that might be helpful to you in completing your course(s) and considerations for your next academic steps.

## Pre-Requisite Requirement

Vista Virtual School (VVS) started accepting adult registrations on May 1, 2018. This occurred when we learned that Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC) would no longer serve adults. One of the biggest differences between the VVS and the ADLC program was that students registering at VVS must provide some evidence that they have prerequisite skills. This means students either must have prerequisite courses on their transcript or have taken further upgrading or on-the-job training to ensure they have the background skills.

Why have we done this?

One of the biggest concerns our teachers had was that adults in the ADLC program had historically very low completion rates. A big part of this was that adults could register any course, as allowed by Alberta Education rules, so someone with Math 9 could register Math 30-1. Unsurprisingly, these registrations were rarely successful. To date, VVS has almost tripled the ADLC rates for successful completion, which means more adults who qualify for courses are earning their credits.

While other schools might not require presentation of prerequisite skills, VVS is most concerned with student success and anticipates continuing this requirement.

## Fee Changes are Coming

You may be aware from media reports the changes to funding to school divisions in the province. Our own school saw a number of reductions in staff earlier in the year. We, nevertheless, were able to maintain our tuition fees without increase.

We do not see that continuing, though, as we expect a new budget from the government by the end of March. If you are considering registering for another course, I urge you to look at getting that course registered before the end of March. We do not know what the tuition fee increase will be at this time but it seems more and more certain an increase will be coming.

## New CTS and Option Courses

VVS has launched a number of option courses in CTS (Foods, Legal Studies, Information processing, etc.) and Social Sciences (e.g.: General Psych 20, Personal Psych 20, World Geography 30, Aboriginal Studies 30 etc.). This provides adults with more choices for earning the credits they may need to graduate.

The big difference, though, is the registration timelines. 1-credit CTS courses have a registration period of three months while 3 & 5-credit option courses have a registration period of six months.

You can see all of our course options on our website ([www.vvschool.ca](http://www.vvschool.ca)) under the Course Catalogue

## Work Experience

One of the big changes we have implemented to help adults earn the credits they need for graduation is to introduce a single fee for up to 20 credits of Work Experience & Career Internship. This \$600 fee, which typically covers a 5-credit course, is a one time fee for up to 20 credits (approximately 500 hours of work) from these two courses to be applied to your transcript.

Any student wishing to access these credits DOES need to have completed Workplace Safety Systems, also called HCS3000 but this offers a cost effective way to earn those final credits needed for a Diploma. All Work Experience hours must be completed within Alberta, and most work or volunteer positions qualify for these credits.

## Academic Counselling

One of the services we do offer adults is academic counselling to ensure the courses they are selecting are meeting their Diploma requirements. We can also advise whether students have the background for courses that are required by post-secondary institutions. If you have questions, please contact us directly.

Also, if you know others who may be struggling to earn their Diploma, please share our contact information. It is one of the unspoken realities that adults do not like admitting when they do not have their Diploma, or the courses they need to enter a particular program. Many, many people are in a similar situation and we look to develop plans that might help them achieve their goals. Please do let them know, when you become aware, that there are options for them.

Our goal at Vista Virtual School is the success of all our students. To that end, we are available to answer your questions. Because we are on the road frequently to visit students, email is the best way to contact us.

Frank McCallum, Associate Principal

[frank.mccallum@pembinahills.ca](mailto:frank.mccallum@pembinahills.ca)

1-855-974-5333 x 6212

Treena Bradbury, Associate Principal

[treena.bradbury@pembinahills.ca](mailto:treena.bradbury@pembinahills.ca)

1-855-974-5333 x 6225

Mike Loitz, Principal

[mike.loitz@pembinahills.ca](mailto:mike.loitz@pembinahills.ca)

1-855-974-5333 x 6101

# General School Contacts

<b>Principal</b>	Mike Loitz ext 6101		
<b>Associate Principals</b>	Treena Bradbury ext 6225	Frank McCallum ext 6212	
<b>School Hours</b>	8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F		
<b>Contact Information</b>	P: 1-855-974-5333	VVS Support x5317	
	<i>Edmonton Campus</i> x6100	<i>Calgary Campus</i> x6200	
	300-10055 106 Street NW Edmonton, AB T7N 1P4	341 58th Avenue SE Calgary, AB T2H 0P3	
<b>School Website</b>	vvschool.ca		
<b>School Email</b>	vvsupport@pembinahills.ca	vvsadults@pembinahills.ca	
<b>We're Online</b>	<b>Twitter</b> @VsitaVirtualSch	<b>Facebook</b> VistaVirtualSch	<b>Website</b> vvschool.ca
<b>Connect with Us</b>	Please follow us on <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">Twitter</a> for updates on events and activities throughout the year. Our <a href="#">website</a> is also a valuable source of information.		The newsletter is published monthly and sent to students, parents and guardians by email.