



79 Old Boomer Road
Sylvan Lake, Alberta T4S 1Z4
Phone: 403-887-6371
Fax: 403-887-6373
www.ecolemotherteresa.ca

May 9, 2025

Dear Parents,

Each year in all middle school grades, students will complete a final exam. In Grades 7 & 8 these exams are created by our teachers and in Grades 6 & 9, Provincial Achievement Tests are administered. These exams occur in May and June in a variety of core subjects.

At EMTS our students will write these tests in English & French Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. These Provincial Achievement Tests assist our school as they help us to evaluate and determine if students are learning what they are expected to learn and assist us in monitoring and improving student learning aligning with the provincial program of studies.

These tests are an important component of our school improvement and highly valued by our team as a means to improve our day to day instruction. Teachers and Grade teams take time in professional development each year to analyze how our achievement compares to schools across the province and make tweaks to their pedagogical and assessment practices to better deliver curriculum. At EMTS, the Provincial Achievement Test scores in Grade 6 & 9 are reported as a final exam mark as a part of the student's end of year report card.

We recognize that any test can cause anxiety for students. As a result we work hard to ensure that the final exams are low risk exams for students.

As a school we do this by:

- Using the PAT as a final exam in Grades 6 & 9, rather than also having an in class final
- Setting the weightings for the Grade 6 & 9 PAT at 10% of a student's final grade
- Helping our students prepare for these exams with many opportunities to complete practice exam questions prior to writing any exams
 - Assisting our students with learning good test taking strategies and techniques to help them feel more prepared for these exams

- Offering our students the same opportunities they have had all year for accommodations, if necessary
- Providing a comfortable and familiar classroom environment with snacks when students write their exams
- Ensuring staff share with students that the final exams are as much a tool for their learning as it is for the students

As parents, you can help your child by:

- Having the conversation that 'their best' is good enough and to reinforce effort rather than a definitive final mark
- Remind your child that this is a low risk exam and although doing their best is important, the exam is only worth 10% of their final grade for the whole year
- Encourage your child to review in small manageable chunks of time. Being prepared for a final cumulative exam (PAT or not) is an important skill, as this is how final assessments are typically done from Grade 6 until post-secondary
- Discuss the importance of establishing a schedule for review a few weeks before the actual exam. I'm sure many of us remember 'cramming' for exams the night before. We have an opportunity to help our students build good habits early on by allocating a small amount of time for review each evening leading up to the test
- Being proud of how hard your child has worked this year and acknowledging this to them. Kids thrive on verbal praise and encouragement
- Ensuring your child is getting enough rest and is up and not rushed on the morning of an exam. Having a good breakfast is also important to their concentration as well as arrive to school on time

A final exam schedule is shared below for your reference as well you will also find information and website links from Alberta Education related to Provincial Achievement Tests.

Yours in Christ,

Erika Pottage

EMTS May/June 2025 EXAM Schedule

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
MAY EXAMS				
Tuesday May 27, 2025	Regular Classes all day	Regular Classes all day	Regular Classes all day	FLA Part A Exam Regular Classes after exam
Wednesday May 28, 2025	ELA Part A Exam Regular Classes after exam	Regular Classes all day	Regular Classes all day	Regular Classes all day
Thursday May 29, 2025	Regular Classes all day	Regular Classes all day	Regular Classes all day	ELA Part A Exam K & E ELA Part A Exam Regular Classes after exam
JUNE EXAMS				
Tuesday June 10, 2025	Regular Classes all day	Regular Classes all day	Regular Classes all day	Regular Classes all day
Wednesday June 11, 2025	Regular Classes all day	Regular Classes all day	Regular Classes all day	FLA PAT Part B Exam Regular Classes after exam
Thursday June 12, 2024	ELA PAT Part B Exam Regular Classes after exam	Regular Classes all day	Regular Classes all day	ELA PAT Part B K & E ELA PAT Part B Regular Classes after exam
Friday June 13, 2025	Math PAT Part A Regular Classes after exam	ELA Exam AM Regular Classes all day	ELA Exam AM Regular Classes all day	Math PAT Part A Regular Classes after exam

Monday June 16, 2025	FLA Exam (French Immersion students) Regular Classes all day	FLA Exam (French Immersion students) Regular Classes all day	FLA Exam (French Immersion students) Regular Classes all day	Regular Classes all day
Tuesday June 17, 2025	Math PAT Part B Structured Review 11:30- 1:30 Early dismissal 1:30 with signed permission form	Math Exam Structured Review 11:30- 1:30 Early dismissal 1:30 with signed permission form	Math Exam Structured Review 11:30- 1:30 Early dismissal 1:30 with signed permission form	Math PAT Part B Structured Review 11:30- 1:30 Early dismissal 1:30 with signed permission form
Wednesday June 18, 2025	Social Studies PAT Structured Review 11:30- 1:30 Early dismissal 1:30 with signed permission form	Social Studies Exam Structured Review 11:30- 1:30 Early dismissal 1:30 with signed permission form	Social Studies Exam Structured Review 11:30- 1:30 Early dismissal 1:30 with signed permission form	Social Studies PAT K & E- Social Social PAT Structured Review 11:30- 1:30 Early dismissal 1:30 with signed permission form
Thursday June 19, 2025	Science Exam AM Early dismissal 11:32 with signed permission form	Science Exam AM Early dismissal 11:32 with signed permission form	Science Exam AM Early dismissal 11:32 with signed permission form	Science PAT K & E PAT Science Early dismissal 11:32 with signed permission form Grade 9 Farewell
Friday June 20, 2025 Recognition of National Indigenous Day	Regular Classes all day (Awards 5-8)	Regular Classes all day (Awards 5-8)	Regular Classes all day (Awards 5-8)	Grade 9 Field Trip tp Heritage park
Monday June 23, 2025	Grade 6 Field trip to Telus World of Science	Regular Classes all day and multi-grade activities	Regular Classes all day and multi-grade activities	Regular Classes all day and multi-grade activities

Tuesday June 24, 2025	Regular Classes all day and multi-grade activities	Regular Classes all day and multi-grade activities	Regular Classes all day and multi-grade activities	Regular Classes all day and multi-grade activities
Wednesday June 25, 2025	Regular Classes all day and multi-grade activities	Grade 7 Field trip to Coliseum Mountain	Regular Classes all day and multi-grade activities	Regular Classes all day and multi-grade activities
Thursday June 26, 2025	<p style="text-align: center;">Last Day of Classes!!! Have a Blessed Summer!</p>			