

Instructional Delivery Options for Alberta Schools

OPTION (1)

Golden Hills School Division (GHSD) provides the course through videoconferencing with its teachers providing all instructional services.

OPTION (2)

The provision of the Palaeontology 15 course online using the Blackboard Learning Management System through the Golden Hills Learning Academy.

OPTION (3)

The locally developed Palaeontology 15 course can be selected as an acquired course by any high school in Alberta.



GOLDEN HILLS
SCHOOL DIVISION #75

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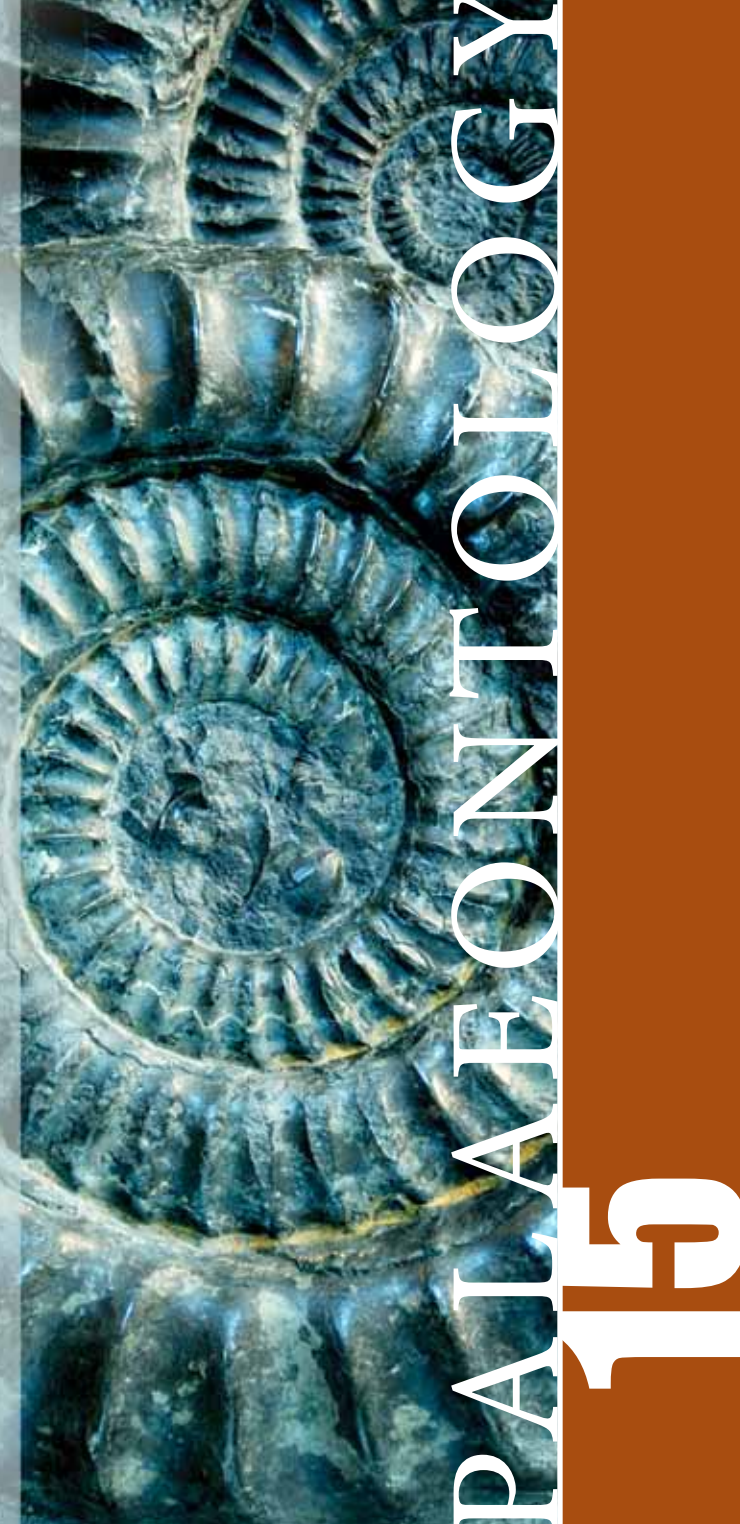
ROYAL TYRRELL
MUSEUM

www.tyrrellmuseum.com

*“There’s the internet, hands-on work,
interaction with other students, and
online work experience. It’s more fun!”*

*“It’s an interesting way to learn, and it’s
good to hear answers and opinions from
students at other schools”* Participants 2008

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of Alberta ■



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History—The concept for Canada’s first known palaeontology high school credit course was initiated by the Golden Hills School Division in 2004. The course was developed in partnership with the Royal Tyrrell Museum and Drumheller Composite High School. Early in 2005, Palaeontology 15 was approved as a locally developed course by the Golden Hills School Division board of trustees and Alberta Education.

Palaeontology 15 incorporates seven different hands-on learning activities delivered by educators from the ATCO Tyrrell Learning Centre at the renowned Royal Tyrrell Museum. These practical experiences supplement classroom learning.

Palaeontology 15 was piloted in fall 2005 to 21 students at Drumheller Composite High School, with very favorable reviews. Minor modifications were made and the course was offered during both semesters in the 2006-2007 school year.

Videoconferencing equipment was used during the second semester (February-June 2007), which allowed two small rural schools, Acme and Standard, to join the Drumheller host school. During this year, students visited the Museum three times for in-house workshops and participated in Museum programs four other times via video conference.

Since its inception, the Palaeontology 15 course has been offered at eight different schools across the province and the response has been very positive.

Coursework—Palaeontology 15 is an introductory science course that integrates many disciplines—biology, geology, physics, and chemistry. Students delve into the history of life on Earth and discover the fundamentals of the scientific process. By examining the fossil record, they gain a greater understanding of the past.

The Museum is able to offer all seven experiences via video conferencing, but encourage schools to take advantage of the surrounding badlands, the Museum galleries, and fossil casting lab through one to three in-house visits (depending on travel feasibility).

The Museum provides an intensive two-day professional development workshop in late August to help prepare first-time teachers of the course.

IN-HOUSE INTERACTIVE PROGRAMS MAY INCLUDE: *Fossil Casting, Seven Wonders of the Badlands* (guided hike), and a guided *Gallery Tour*.

VIDEO CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS MAY INCLUDE: *An introduction to Palaeontology, Cretaceous Crime Scene, Badlands/Goodlands, A Museum at Work, Secrets of the Lost Quarry, Virtual Visit Gallery Tour, and Up Close and Paleo* (interacting with a palaeontologist).

Future—The Palaeontology 15 course has proven so successful, that the next level, Palaeontology 25 is now being delivered at Drumheller Composite High School. Plans for Palaeontology 35 are in place.

Award Winning

In 2008, the Canadian Museum’s Association awarded Drumheller Composite High School and the Royal Tyrrell Museum the Museums and Schools Partnership Award for the Palaeontology 15 course.

The course was also recognized by the Calgary Educational Partnership Foundation in 2007 with the Mayor’s Excellence Award in the category of Curriculum Support.



“Video conference technology is an excellent way for small schools to offer options such as French, Physics, Math 31 and Palaeontology.”

Gary Semotiuk, Principal, Acme School

“Palaeontology via video conference allows staff development opportunities with new technology, to teach to a larger audience with real time material, and engage experts.”

Keith Schneider, Principal, Standard