

Rainbow Creek Elementary School



Handbook

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Message from School Administration

As a learning community we have developed foundation statements that encompass our desire to be a child-centered, literacy-focused school committed to respect and caring for all. We constantly strive to enhance learning opportunities for our students and to ensure they are acquiring skills they will need to be successful independent citizens in the 21st century.

We are proud of our welcoming, caring atmosphere in which all learners have the opportunity to grow and develop. We are committed to establishing leadership opportunities for all our students.

We are very proud and honored to be the administrative team of Rainbow Creek Elementary School. It truly is a place where everyone is special!

Dawn M. Rife & Cristy Leonard-Glaspey

Vision: Creativity, happiness and passion thrive here.

Mission: At Rainbow Creek Elementary, creativity, happiness and passion grow through meaningful experiences and a culture of care, trust and respect.

Motto: Care. Create. Grow.

Student Expectations

Dress Code

The following items ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE at school

- tube tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, or tops with plunging necklines, gaping arm holes, open backs or sheer material
- undergarments that are showing
- belly/stomach showing
- skirts or shorts shorter than the ends of fingertips when arms are extended at the sides of the body
- t-shirts with offensive/suggestive comments or cartoons, or with double innuendos
- bare feet and no shirts
- hats inside the building

Students in grades 1-5 are expected to go outside for recess and should be appropriately dressed for the weather.

Outdoor shoes and boots must be removed upon entering the school. Students are required to wear a pair of clean shoes with non-marking soles while indoors.

Technology Rules

Students can bring personally owned devices to school at their own risk and provided these rules are followed:

- Cellular data must be turned off.
- All content must be age- and school-appropriate.
- Personally owned devices can be taken out at recess with staff and parent permission.
- Absolutely NO picture taking is allowed.

**If any of these rules are broken, the device will be taken away for the day and the student will be asked to leave it at home in the future!*

Disciplinary Actions

Our disciplinary actions are based upon the following beliefs:

- Children will make mistakes regarding their behaviour.
- Children have the ability to make educated choices.
- Children can and should learn from their mistakes.
- Children's self esteem will be maintained.

As a school community, we consider the following to be non-negotiable behaviours:

- Physical aggression
- Offensive language
- Bullying behaviours

Any student engaged in such behaviour(s) will be referred to the office.

Office referrals will be dealt with using a restorative justice model and based on students' understanding of the following:

1. I understand what I did wrong.
2. I accept responsibility for my actions.
3. I agree to apologize for my actions.
4. I agree to make amends as best as I can.

When a student is referred to the office, parents or guardians are contacted by phone, email or letter. This communication allows school and home to work together.

If the behaviour persists or presents a significant threat to the safety of others (students or staff) a suspension will be given as per the School Act.

General Information

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 7:45 am - 3:45 pm

Friday 7:45 am – 1:30 pm

If you are calling the office before/after these hours you will automatically be transferred to voicemail and asked to leave a message.

If you get voicemail during regular office hours, please leave a message and somebody will get back to you as soon as possible.

Fees and Supplies

Each year, our Board approves a fee schedule for the upcoming school year to support the costs of instructional resource fees and urban school bus passes. For students in kindergarten through grade four, the instructional supplies fee includes the cost of student supplies. For students in grade five, school supplies are not included and must be purchased by parents.

All school fees must be paid by September 30th. If you are unable to provide payment in a timely manner, please contact the school office to discuss payment options.

Lost and Found

Please clearly label all personal items with your child's first and last name. The lost and found is located in the drawers at the front entrance of the school. Unclaimed items are donated to charity.

School Council

Rainbow Creek School Council consists of an executive and parents from the school community. School Council meetings occur monthly and all parents are welcome to attend. Executive members are elected at the Annual General Meeting that is held every year at the end of May.

Our School Council is active in fundraising to provide support for activities for our students such as dance, theatre performances and field trips. The School Council also assists in funding new technologies and resources.

Communication

Good Communication is Key

We have found through experience that if all the partners involved in the education of children communicate with each other regularly and effectively, concerns are better addressed and resolved. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please contact the specific teacher involved.

Please be sure to update contact information with the school office staff regularly. Being able to contact parents/guardians at all times is extremely important.

Attendance

We believe that punctuality and regular attendance are very important for successful learning and establishing good habits. We ask that parents ensure that children are in school and arrive on time each day. Late arrivals disrupt teachers, students, and classroom routines.

The school office must be notified each day that your child will be absent. Please call 403-273-8129. If notification of an absence is not received, an automated message will be dispatched to parents. Please be sure to notify the office of any changes to your contact information.

Extended Vacations

At Rainbow Creek Elementary School we recognize that a child's educational experience is not confined to the school building. However, we do have concerns about vacations that are taken when school is in session. Please consider the following when making your vacation plans:

1. Being in school is a unique experience that cannot be duplicated.
2. Many children who have been absent from school often have a period of readjustment when they return.
3. Teachers are not required to provide work for your child while you are on vacation.

If you are going on a vacation please notify your child's classroom teacher and the office of your vacation plans as soon as possible

Communication of Student Learning

The Communication of Student Learning process is designed to help students build knowledge of themselves as learners while capturing their proficiency in demonstrating learner outcomes and facilitating conversations of the next steps on the student's learning journey. The reporting process for kindergarten to grade 8 will move to incorporate learning profiles, portfolios, teacher/parent/student conferences, and report cards/evidence summaries.

In RVS, schools have three summative reporting periods per school year.

Agendas

All students in kindergarten to grade five have an agenda. These agendas go home every day and are to be read and signed by parents. Agendas contain important information about homework and special events.

Whiskers Weekly

Please be sure to watch your email every Friday for communication from our school. If you are unable to receive emails, please contact the school office for a paper copy of our weekly newsletter.

Safety and Security

Visitors to the School

During school hours the only door that is unlocked is the front door on West Creek Drive. This is to promote the safety of our staff and students.

All visitors must sign in at the office.

Volunteers

Parent volunteers are a valued and important part of our school community. Per Policy GBCD, all volunteers in RVS as part of a classroom, school or system-wide program are required to submit Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Checks prior to the start of volunteer activities.

In Chestermere, the RCMP will complete this at no cost with the appropriate documentation. Forms are available at the school office.

Illnesses at School

If a student becomes ill at school and needs to be sent home, parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to come pick up the student as soon as possible. If unable to do so, parents need to make alternate arrangements.

If we are unable to contact parents/guardians the student's emergency contact will be called.

Medical Concerns

Parents need to ensure that the school is aware of any medical concerns and that the information is up to date. For students with potentially life threatening conditions, an Emergency Medical Plan is developed and shared with all staff members.

Allergy Policy

Rainbow Creek Elementary School is an "Allergy Aware" school. Being allergy aware means that we take precautions to reduce the chance of exposure for students to allergens while acknowledging that it is impossible to eliminate all risk. Parents who have children with allergies must notify the office.

In classrooms marked with a red “Allergy Alert” sign, foods indicated are NOT permitted in the classroom due to the risk of anaphylactic shock. To reduce the risk of anaphylactic shock through contact with an allergen, food is not allowed on the playground. If an “Allergy Alert” sign is posted outside your child’s classroom, please consult the teacher before sending treats for the class.

First Aid

We have staff members trained in first aid. All injured or ill students are brought to the infirmary and taken care of by a qualified staff member.

Administration of Medication

Rocky View Schools’ Administrative Procedure 316 stipulates if there is a need for students to have medication administered at school, parents must sign the appropriate documentation.

Emergency Response Plan

The Division has developed an Emergency Response Plan to deal with a wide range of emergency situations that may impact our school community. The Plan works in concert with other local emergency preparedness plans. The Division-wide plan and those plans tailored specifically to each individual school are reviewed and revised annually and, if required, after an emergency.

Our school has an on-site emergency team composed of school staff. We regularly provide staff with emergency training and practice various emergency drills with students and staff. A Division-based Emergency Response Team has also been established to assist schools in responding to emergencies.

School Programs

School Patrols

AMA School Safety Patrols have been keeping children safe since 1937. In the entire history of the AMA School Safety Patrol program, there have been **zero** serious injuries or fatalities while patrollers were on duty.

In addition to providing safe passage for the school community, the Rainbow Creek Patrol Team is committed to bringing awareness regarding crosswalk safety to our school community. Students who participate in the patrol program develop important qualities and personal skills such as leadership and a sense of social responsibility.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast is available to all students every morning. It is served in a grab and go style.

Milk Program

Students can pre-purchase milk for lunch. Information is available at the school office.

Student-Led Clubs

Students have the opportunity to participate in various lunch clubs throughout the school year. Clubs are organized and led by students.

Hot Lunch

Hot lunches are served every Thursday at Rainbow Creek. The program is run by the School Council and supported by a dedicated group of volunteers.

Freezie Friday

Students in grades 1 - 5 can opt to purchase Freezies every Friday during lunch. The program is run by the School Council and supported by a dedicated group of volunteers.

About Learning and Teaching

Program of Studies

The Program of Studies as outlined by Alberta Education is the basis for instruction. Assessment of students is broad based and progress and achievement is determined using a variety of strategies.

Field Trips

Field trips are an important part of student learning. Parent consent must be given for children to participate in field trips and a fee may be collected, depending upon the trip.

Learning Support

Rainbow Creek has moved away from a solely stand alone, pull-out approach to supporting students. We are working towards using a team approach to meet the needs of learners within their homeroom classes.

Our team approach calls on the expertise of our English Language Learning (ELL) teacher, our Early Literacy (EL) teacher, our Resource teacher (RT), our Child Development Advisor (CDA), as well as our school administrators. This team works collaboratively with homeroom teachers to improve practice, meet the social and emotional needs of students, leverage technology in the classroom and problem solve ways to best meet the needs of every student in the most appropriate environment.

Child Development Advisor

The Child Development Advisor (CDA) offers a planned and balanced approach to student development. Planned activities focus on developing social and emotional skills in students with the goal of enhancing both their social interactions and their academic achievement.

The CDA consults with staff, students, parents, and when necessary, with outside agencies. This ensures that the needs of all learners are being met. The program is designed to provide proactive and preventative programs as well as intervention with issues, which have already been identified. The CDA works with students individually, in groups, with classes and with whole school initiatives.

The CDA is an active member of both the Learning Support Team and Crisis Management Team.