

RIVER
VALLEY
SCHOOL

STUDENT AGENDA 2018-2019

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THIS AGENDA BELONGS TO:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the staff of River Valley School, I would like to welcome all of you. We hope that our time together this year is an exciting learning adventure for us all. This agenda is given to you to help you stay organized. Organization is one of the keys to success in school, so keep it in an accessible place so it is always easy to grab and use.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL

Our school strives to help you learn the knowledge and skills necessary for living in the 21st century. This includes the social skills necessary to build solid relationships with other students and adults. Such skills include co-operation, leadership, a strong concept of self, acceptance of responsibility, and an honest understanding of your own strengths and weaknesses. We have a responsibility to help you learn respect for yourself, others and property and to become the citizens that will lead our community in the future.

We never want you to lose the sense of curiosity and wonder that drives us to learn, explore and discover. We wish to help you pursue excellence in order that you can take pride in your accomplishments when your best effort has been put forth. Each student should experience the pride that comes with having met challenges that are exciting and stimulating.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Report Cards

Report cards are issued three times per year. Check the school calendar for the dates. Use the information on the report cards to determine your strengths, and to identify what you want to improve on for the next term.

Achievement Awards

There are some very special awards for students in grades 6, 7 and 8 that are presented at the end of each term and at the end of the year for students who have distinguished themselves in the areas of academics, citizenship, band, leadership, and in extra-curricular athletics. Eagle awards are based on a rubric completed each reporting period focused on behaviors that help ensure success in school. The first award earned by a student each year will be a Bronze Award, the second will be a Silver Award and the third earned each year will be a Gold Award. Ask your teacher for details!

Eagle Awards (Grade 2-4) / Caught You Doing Good Awards (Grade 5-8)

Teachers nominate students who are deserving of immediate recognition for improved behaviour, attitude, good sportsmanship, academic and other criteria. Students' names are placed in the office and a Growly Certificate is awarded every day.

Homework and Assignments

In all academic subjects, you will be expected to complete daily work and larger projects which may require some study and work at home. When you finish assignments and hand them in, your teacher can tell what you have learned and can see where you may require extra assistance, therefore it is important that you use your classroom time well so homework is manageable.

SCHOOL SERVICES

Telephone

Telephones are located in each classroom and may be used by students with teacher permission. Please make your after school plans before coming to school. During the school day you may use the classroom phone with teacher permission. Calls that need to be made privately can occur at the office, with permission.

Learning Commons: A whole school approach to building a participatory learning community

As we move forward with the Learning Commons philosophy, the Library, as well as the Digital Lounge and Common Area will continue to house new activities and opportunities. As always, we need cooperation and respect to be shown while using these spaces, as many different groups may want to access resources or be engaged in various activities in these areas at the same time. Please make sure you are aware of the guidelines for use of personal technology in each space, and adhere to these rules.

Locks and Lockers

All students will be assigned to a locker. All lockers for Grade 6 to Grade 8 students must have school locks on them. At the start of each year, you will be called down to the office to either purchase a lock or to re-register your lock for your new locker.

You are responsible for taking care of your own property. It is very important that you do not share your locker combination with anyone. Please do not bring valuable items or large amounts of money to school. Lockers are not foolproof and the school accepts no responsibility for property stolen from them. Please remember that all lockers are the property of the school, and administration has access to them at all times.

Growly/ Vending Machine

The Growly is our lunch counter, and it serves grade 7 and 8 students daily. Grade 2 to 6 students can use the Growly and the vending machine only on their designated day. We work hard to provide healthy options to students. To help the Growly operate smoothly, please:

1. Follow directions of supervisors.
2. Stand patiently in single file while you wait your turn to order.

If the vending machine appears to be out of order, please go to the office and ask for assistance - this machine is very expensive and we need to treat it accordingly.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

General

River Valley School operates on the belief that each student is responsible for their behavior and all students have the right to learn. In order to be a productive learning environment, a school must be a safe place for students and without disruptive behavior. Home and school must share the responsibility for teaching children acceptable behavior.

Section 31 of the Alberta Education Act clearly lays out student responsibilities. It says you must:

- a) Attend school regularly and punctually,
- b) Be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue your education,
- c) Ensure that your conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging,
- d) Respect the rights of others in the school,
- e) Refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means,
- f) Comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board,
- g) Co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services,
- h) Be accountable to your teachers and other school staff for your conduct, and
- i) Positively contribute to your school and community.

Consequences for misconduct will be natural and logical whenever possible. Each case will be considered on its own merit with consideration given to age and maturity level of the children. Whenever appropriate, your parents will be informed of the consequences and misconduct. Discipline may include temporary removal from activities,

assignment of alternate activities or detention. For serious concerns and misbehavior, the school administration team, teachers and parents will meet to discuss the concerns and formulate a plan of action. Serious conduct could include an in or out of school suspension or expulsion from school.

School Expectations

1. You are responsible to the school for your actions when travelling to and from school.
2. You are expected to enter and exit the school through your designated doors.
As your teachers are busy preparing for the day, you need to wait outside for the morning bell unless a supervisor instructs you to go inside because of extreme weather.
3. If you are dropped off in the loop at the front of the school, please go around the building and enter through the appropriate door.
4. Check in at the office if you are late or have to leave class or school for any reason before the end of the day so we don't go looking for you.
5. Stay on the school grounds at all times unless supervised by a staff member.
6. You will learn better if you get some fresh air and exercise. Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather as all students are expected to be outside for recess periods.

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited (this list is not an exhaustive list, but only provides samples):

1. possession and/or use of drugs, tobacco and alcohol either at school or to and from school.
2. use of profanity.
3. defiance of school staff.
4. fighting.
5. possession or downloading of pornographic materials.
6. bullying, humiliating or harassing others, including through digital means
7. possession of matches, lighters or laser pointers.
8. possession of weapons or pretend weapons - this includes wearing accessories made from weapons
9. any of these issues that occur beyond the school day but which impact schooling or a student's emotional or physical well-being while at school may be addressed.

Care of School Property

You are responsible for helping care for school property, including desks, books, material, equipment, other furnishings and the building. Any vandalism shall be regarded as a serious offence. If you do this, you will be held responsible for repairing the damage. Students are expected, as a matter of trust, to care for all materials loaned to them.

Dress Code

Dress Code Expectations

You need to be dressed appropriately for school. Clothing worn to school should be appropriate for an educational setting. Beachwear, short shorts/skirts, crop tops, low necklines and clothing with drug, alcohol, sexual or violent references are not appropriate in a school setting. Tops and bottoms should not leave undergarments exposed. Further, accessories/ jewelry made of weapons are not acceptable at school. Please remove hats and hoods when entering the school as a sign of respect.

Specific items that may not meet school dress code:

- ripped jeans where undergarments may show
- backless or mesh shirts that expose undergarments
- clothing with questionable slogans/ messaging
- a sports bra is considered an undergarment and should not be exposed

The school administration reserves the right to make the final decision on what is or is not acceptable.

In the event that what you are wearing is considered unacceptable, you may be asked to go home and change, or to find more suitable attire. **River Valley School's clothing policy is conservative. If you believe the outfit is questionable - PLEASE DO NOT WEAR IT TO SCHOOL - thank you for your good judgement in this area.**

Additional dress requirements:

Suitable gym clothing (including a school t-shirt for gr 6-8 students) is required for gym classes. For safety reasons you need to wear shoes in school. Students require two pairs of shoes, one for indoors and a second for outdoors. To help keep our school clean and safe, outdoor shoes that are dirty or wet must be removed when you enter the school.

Bicycles/Skateboards/Rollerblades/Scooters/Heelies/Wiggle or Hover Boards

If you ride your bike to school, please be sure it is locked and in the bike racks. These racks are off-limits during school hours to help protect your property. Bicycles, skateboards, scooters, hover boards, heelies and rollerblades cannot be ridden on the school grounds and parking areas during school hours.

Use of Personal Electronic Devices/ Digital Citizenship

We spend between 3 & 4 hours a day on our own devices...Between video games, movies, our phones, and computers at home and school you could be spending close to 8 hours a day on a screen. Consider what it is you are NOT doing because you are on a screen...like spending time outside, visiting face to face with friends or family, and so on. There are specific rules for when and where personal tech may or may not be used. Generally **NO** personal devices should be in use in hallways, which includes headphones/ ear buds. You may use them in a classroom only with the permission of your teacher. **YOU** are responsible for your accounts - both personal and school, so keep your password secure - **DO NOT** share it with anyone. When using school tech, always be sure to logout properly and **NEVER** have it save your password. Using electronic equipment in a manner that disrupts learning or invades the privacy of others is also prohibited. **Due to FOIPP regulations students may not take pictures or videos of each other at school.**

Please be aware that any bullying through digital means is taken very seriously, and this includes things that occur after school hours but that impact how we get along in the building - this is something the school will be involved in, so think carefully about how you use technology both in and out of school. A few things to remember: If you wouldn't want your grandparent to see it, then it is probably not appropriate to post. If it is hurtful and not something you would say in person then it should not be shared digitally.

The penalties for misuse of digital equipment, including cameras and/or cell phones include warnings, confiscation, suspension or expulsion.

Note that the *Chinook's Edge School Division Technology Responsible Use Terms and Conditions Document* applies to personal devices as well as school owned technology.

Student Involvement

River Valley School offers a great variety of activities for students to get involved in. Fine Arts programs such as band, and after school sports, leadership activities and dances provide students with opportunities to have fun and be active. The emphasis in all these activities is on participation and all students are encouraged to come on out and have some fun!

Family School Wellness

There are many people in RVS who you can talk to if you have trouble or are stressed about an issue. This list includes your current teacher, a past teacher or adult you trust, someone in the office or our Family School Wellness Worker. Our FSWW will introduce herself to your class early in the year. Her office is upstairs in Rm 205. There are a lot of people who can help, but we can't help if we don't know you need it, so please come talk to us if you need support.

Commitment Statement

To make River Valley School an outstanding school, we all need to commit to being our best. Students, parents and staff commit to:

- taking pride in myself, in my work, and in my school;
- being kind to all people by showing respect;
- finishing all assignments by trying my best;
- taking care of school property;
- having a positive attitude about learning;
- using respectful language;
- dressing appropriately for learning;
- making responsible digital citizenship choices;
- coming to school on time and prepared to learn; and
- sharing school information and assignment information with my family.

Student _____

Parent Initial _____

Important Parent Information

In hopes of continuing to ensure a safe, secure and optimal learning environment, we have been evaluating some of our policies and processes in the school. We have examined protocols in other schools within Chinook's Edge and have collaborated with our RCMP school liaison to help us determine what changes we can make to be sure we are doing all we can to keep your children safe and fully engaged in their learning.

For example, we require all volunteers to provide up to date Criminal Record/Vulnerable Sector checks, as well as signing a school Volunteer Agreement/Oath of Confidentiality, and using an ID lanyard as well as adhering to the sign in/sign out process.

Further, we ask that if you need to see your child during the school day that you check in at the office and wait there while office admin. calls your child down to meet you, rather than going to your child's classroom or locker. In this way, we can be assured that only school personnel and on-duty volunteers who have completed the screening process, are in proximity to students during the school day, and classes can proceed with minimal interruption.

Other changes you will note happening this Fall:

- ❖ Exterior doors (other than the front doors) will open only a few minutes prior to each recess bell in the day, which includes the first bell in the morning and the end of day dismissal bell
- ❖ Front doors will open at 8:00 in the morning
- ❖ We request that if dropping off your child at the school in the morning, please direct them to go around the school to the appropriate boot room doors and wait outside until the first bell - your child should not be entering the front doors unless the school day has started
- ❖ Increased supervision on the playground in the morning before school starts
- ❖ We request that if you are picking up your child after school that you wait outside your child's boot room; alternately you may enter through the front doors but we ask that you do not proceed to the Common Area until after 3:00, as this is an area utilized by students and staff for learning purposes until the end of the school day

- ❖ A reminder that if utilizing one of the two school drop off (not parking) loops, please remember that vehicles should not be left unattended here - supervisors will be monitoring the loops to remind people of this
- ❖ There may be changes to parking lot access in the future to ensure the safety of students, and we will keep you informed of these changes as they arise. As always, it is unsafe to have a child access the school parking lot without an adult. We would continue to ask that you do not block off other vehicles in the parking lot at the end of the day - thank you.
- ❖ Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students may have slightly different pick-up/ drop-off routines and these will be communicated to these classes

We continue to value your involvement in your child's education, and recognize that for many years there has been an open access policy at River Valley School. As the world changes around us however, we must consider what changes we need to make to ensure we can continue to effectively provide a safe, caring and optimal learning environment for your children. We truly appreciate your understanding and willingness to change along with us to make this a reality at RVS - thank you.

RVS Facebook Page

The River Valley School Facebook page is a great way for our school to communicate with parents and our community. Its main purpose is to provide information, as well as to celebrate accomplishments within our school. We encourage people to join us in positive commentary, but concerns or specific questions should not be posted here, but rather addressed through a private message or a phone call to the school. Administration will generally not be responding to comments on the RVS FB page, as we are busy with the day to day workings of the school and teaching kids of course - although we are very grateful for all the supportive comments - thanks! If there is an occasion where negative commentary is posted, it will be removed from the site, and that individual will lose access to the RVS FB page for the remainder of the school year ☹️. Digital citizenship is something we continue to work on with our students, and we appreciate that parents model the way also - thank you.

Parents & The School Act

The School Act (Section 16.2) also clarifies the role of parents in a school as follows:

- (a) to take an active role in the student's educational success, including assisting the student in complying with section 12,
- (b) to ensure that the parent's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment,
- (c) to co-operate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of supports and services to the student,
- (d) to encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school, and RSA 2000 Section 17 Chapter S-3 SCHOOL ACT 26
- (e) to engage in the student's school community. 2015 c1 s3;2017 c28 s2

We cannot say thank you enough to the number of parents and community members who provide ongoing support through volunteerism, fundraising initiatives, getting that math homework done, or reading a favorite story. We truly appreciate your involvement in your child's education, and look forward to continuing to work together.

Thank You!!