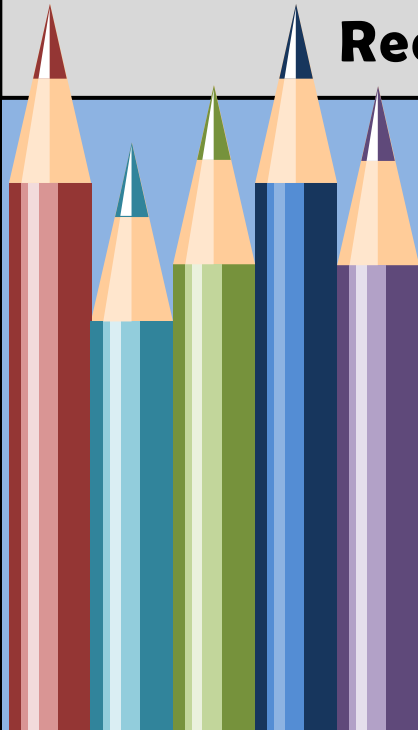


2015-16 Parent Handbook



Gateway Christian School

4210 – 59 Avenue
Red Deer, AB T4N 2M9



Providing quality
Christ-centered
education, so students
are equipped and
encouraged to serve
God joyfully.

E-Mail Address: gateway@rdpsd.ab.ca
GCS Homepage: <http://gateway.rdpsd.ab.ca/>

Gateway Christian School is a Christian School because:

- of the Christian approach to relationships which focuses on mutual respect and love for each other as God's unique creations.
- its school rules and guiding principles are based on biblical guidelines meant to structure a truly liberated life in Christ's kingdom.
- our focus is on God's glory, His love and upon our response to those free gifts.
- we ourselves, in our various groupings as a "community under Christ" are committed to working together (parents, teachers and students) in the nurturing tasks before us.

THROUGH LINES

Your child(ren)'s learning will be centered on understandings called Through Lines. A Through Line is a Biblical theme that sets the focus for the topic they will be learning. The Through Lines are:

1. **Beauty-Creating:** to use their creative gifts like singing, dancing, drawing and painting to make this world more beautiful.
2. **Order-Discovering:** to search for patterns when they explore numbers and shapes, or the order they discover in outer space.
3. **Justice-Seeking:** to do what is right and to speak up for those who don't have a voice.
4. **Idolatry-Discerning:** to examine their lives to see if they have made anything more important than God.
5. **Creation-Enjoying:** to understand that the earth is the Lord's and that they are to enjoy it.
6. **Earth-Keeping:** to take care of what God has created (not being wasteful, taking care of the earth, plants & animals, recycle, reduce and reuse their materials).
7. **Faith-Nurturing:** to grow in their faith life through prayer, reading and discussing Bible stories & attending Worship.
8. **Image-Reflecting:** to live their lives so that others can see God at work in them.
9. **God-Worshipping:** to give praise and thanks to God for all that He has done.
10. **Servant-Working:** to do acts of service for others (i.e.: Gr. 12 mission trip, Gr. 2 water well project, etc.).
11. **Community-Building:** to understand that God created them to love and care for others in their homes, school and city.

PROGRAM of STUDIES

Gateway Christian School follows the Alberta curriculum in terms of topics and skills taught at each level.

"Grade-at-a-Glance" summaries are available at <http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildlearning/index.html>.

We are distinctly Christian because of our Christian approach to these topics and skills which is often structured by teacher guides published by Christian Schools International or the Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE). Where such guides do not exist, teachers are challenged to find a Christian approach to topics and to implement them in the classroom.

LEARNALBERTA WEBSITE

www.learnalberta.ca is a resource website for teachers, students & parents. The password for Red Deer Public Schools is **Username: LA52 Password: 3340**

RED DEER SOCIETY FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (RDSCE)

In 1954, the Red Deer Christian School Society was founded by a group of concerned individuals who wanted a place where their children would receive a Christ based education. The school opened its doors in 1968 to 22 grade 1-4 students. The school was run in all aspects by the society until 1999 when it became part of Red Deer Public School District. Since then, the school has become Gateway Christian School and the society has become the Red Deer Society for Christian Education. The society changed its focus from the day to day operations of the school to ensuring that the Christian aspect of the program is maintained and guarded. Until June 30, 2013, the society ran busses for day to day transportation. They sponsor the annual Meet the Teacher/Staff Barbeque. They promote the furtherance of Christian education through the distribution of funds from their endowment fund. They have created a scholarship named in honor of a former teacher. The Gayle Austring Memorial Scholarship provides 5- \$1000 scholarships to students entering post-secondary studies. They sponsor staff appreciation events throughout the school year. They ensure that the agreement with the public school district remains as it was intended 16 years ago.

Gateway Christian School's Staff List 2015 - 2016

Principal	Rob Moltzahn	Grade 9C/ID & H/S	Tyler Capton
Vice-Principal	Jeremy Horlings	Grade 9L/Band & H/S	Graham Langridge
Vice-Principal	Geannette Lehman	High School	Katrina Brown
Secretaries	Herma Pikkert	Gr. 6 Math & PE	Helena Vander Linde
	Aletta Cartwright	Bible	Barbara Barthel
	Cathy McCullough	LAT	Lynette Loonstra
ECS M/W	Amy McAllister	PE/French /Athletic Director	Mike McCorquindale
ECS M/W	Donelda Schultz	various classes	Kaylee Barnstable
ECS T/T	Suzanne Burnett		
ECS T/T	Stacey Lodewyk		
Grade 1A	Carmen Archer		
Grade 1D	Katie DeMoor	Educational Assistants:	Lois Andersen
Grade 1We	Jobena Westera		Lani Morgan
Grade 1Wo	Karen Wolfmeyer		Sharla Nimchuk
Grade 2K	Codi Kreil		Heather Poettcker
Grade 2Sa	Geri Lee Sayers		Melissa Seinen
Grade 2Sc	Crystal Schalk		Karin Silverthorn
Grade 3G	Ger Klootwyk		Nicole Stolte
Grade 3K	John Kranenborg		Cathy Vaartstra
Grade 3R	Sandra Rhoad		Lynnette Veuger
Grade 3S	Lucille Snyder	Librarian:	Verla Opendries
Grade 4K	Shaun Kranenborg		
Grade 4N / LAT	Melanie Neilson	Caretakers:	Colin Kerr / Hassan Hamud
Grade 5B	Leah Baker		Bob Nelson
Grade 5D	Jim Driedger		Bob White
Grade 6D	Klaaske DeKoning		
Grade 6K/LAT & H/S	Chris Kooman		
Grade 7B	Megan Brown		
Grade 7P	Robin Pawlak		
Grade 8M	Eric Mueller		
Grade 8P & H/S	Yvonne Prins		

ADDRESSING CONCERNS

When a parent has a concern about their child, the first point of contact should always be the classroom teacher. With open communication, most issues can be easily addressed once the teacher is aware of the problem. Sometimes parents may have a concern that does not involve the classroom teacher and in those cases, you may choose to contact the admin rep for your child's grade:

Mr. Moltzahn: 1, 4, 7, 10

Mrs. Lehman: 2, 5, 8, 11

Mr. Horlings: Kindergarten, Grades 3, 6, 9, 12

Gateway Christian School's 2015-16 Daily Schedule

Kindergarten – Gr. 8

Firstbell	8:30
Period 1.....	8:36 – 9:11
Period 2.....	9:11 – 9:46
Period 3.....	9:46 – 10:21
Recess.....	10:21 – 10:37
Period 4.....	10:37 – 11:13
Period 5.....	11:14 – 11:50
Lunch	11:50 – 12:40
Period 6.....	12:40 – 1:16
Period 7.....	1:17 – 1:52
Period 8.....	1:53 – 2:28
Period 9.....	2:28 – 3:03
Homeroom.....	3:03 – 3:14

Grades 9

Period 1/2.....	8:36 – 9:46
Period 3 (Flex).....	9:46 – 10:21
Period 4/5.....	10:37 – 11:50
Lunch	11:50 – 12:40
Period 6.....	12:40 – 1:16
Period 7.....	1:17 – 1:52
Period 8.....	1:53 – 2:28
Period 9.....	2:28 – 3:03
Homeroom.....	3:03 – 3:14

Grade 10-11

PERIOD 0	7:10 – 8:28 (LTCHS)
Period 1	8:33 – 9:46 (LTCHS)
P-2 (Flex)	9:46 – 10:31 (LTCHS or GCS)
Period 3	10:37 – 11:50 (LTCHS)
P-4 (Transition)	11:50 – 12:40
Period 5	12:40 – 1:53 (GCS)
Period 7	2:01 – 3:14 (GCS)
Period 8	3:30 – 5:00 (GCS) 3:20 - 5:05 (LTCHS)

Grade 12

PERIOD 0	7:10 – 8:28 (LTCHS)
Period 1	8:27 – 9:40 (GCS)
P-2 (Flex)	9:46 – 10:31 (GCS or LTCHS)
Period 3	10:37 – 11:50 (GCS)
P-4 (Transition)	11:50 – 12:40
Period 5	12:40 – 1:53 (LTCHS)
Period 7	2:01 – 3:14 (LTCHS)
Period 8	3:20 – 5:05 (LTCHS) 3:30 - 5:00 (GCS)

Special High School Schedule (Gr. 10-12)

September 4 -17

Grade 10-11

Grade 12

LTCHS	P-0	7:10-8:28	LTCHS	P-0	7:10-8:28
LTCHS	P-1	8:33-10:02	GCS	P-1	8:27-9:56
LTCHS	P-3	10:08-11:33	GCS	P-3	9:56-11:21
Lunch	P-4	11:33-12:22	Lunch	P-4	11:21-12:16
GCS	P-5	12:22-1:49	LTCHS	P-5	12:18-1:43
GCS	P-7	1:49-3:14	LTCHS	P-7	1:49-3:14

September 21 and onwards

Grade 10-11

Grade 12

LTCHS	P-0	7:10-8:28	LTCHS	P-0	7:10-8:28
LTCHS	P-1	8:33-9:46	GCS	P-1	8:27-9:40
LTCHS or GCS	Flex P-2	9:46-10:31	LTCHS or GCS	Flex P-2	9:46-10:31
LTCHS	P-3	10:37-11:50	GCS	P-3	10:37-11:50
Lunch	P-4	11:50-12:40	Lunch	P-4	11:50-12:40
GCS	P-5	12:40-1:53	LTCHS	P-5	12:40-1:53
GCS	P-7	2:01-3:14	LTCHS	P-7	2:01-3:14

April 13 (noon dismissal)

Grade 10-11

Grade 12

LTCHS	P-0	7:10-8:28	LTCHS	P-0	7:10-8:28
LTCHS	P-1	8:33-9:20	GCS	P-1	8:27-9:18
LTCHS	P-3	9:27-10:13	GCS	P-3	9:18-10:10
GCS	P-5	10:23-11:09	LTCHS	P-5	10:20-11:06
GCS	P-7	11:09-11:55	LTCHS	P-7	11:13-12:00

December 18th (early dismissal)

Grade 10-11

Grade 12

LTCHS	P-0	7:10-8:28	LTCHS	P-0	7:10-8:28
LTCHS	P-1	8:33-9:40	GCS	P-1	8:27-9:34
LTCHS	P-3	9:46-10:53	GCS	P-3	9:34-10:41
Lunch	P-4	10:53-11:29	Lunch	P-4	10:41-11:24
GCS	P-5	11:29-12:36	LTCHS	P-5	11:24-12:31
GCS	P-7	12:37-1:44	LTCHS	P-7	12:37-1:44

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ~ Monday to Friday

Secretaries: Aletta Cartwright & Cathy McCullough **Financial Secretary:** Herma Pikkert

Visitors please sign in at the school office. Thank you!

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION TO STUDENTS

If your child has a medical condition that is life threatening (e.g. bee sting, food allergy, diabetes, etc.) a medical alert form must be completed at the beginning of the school year and **updated on an annual basis.**

Please stop by the office to fill out a form or up-date last year's form.

When a student must receive medication prescribed by a doctor, the administration of the medication is to be undertaken by staff only under the following conditions:

- A staff member has agreed to be of assistance and has been given appropriate instruction or training by a qualified person which may include the parent and,
- Specific authorization in writing from the parent/guardian and physician. Form must be submitted to the school (forms for this purpose are available at the office).

If any medication is to be administered to a student, the medication is to be stored in a secure place and a record is to be kept including dates and times of administration, identity of the medication, the dosage, and the signed initials of the person who administered it.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

Parents please communicate each day your child is absent via a note, telephone call, or personal conversation with your child's teacher. We have a telephone answering machine to report student absences. Parents are requested to leave their child's name, his/her classroom teacher's name, the nature of his/her illness and the date on which he/she is expected to return to school. If your child is late, please instruct them to stop by the office to sign the "LATE SIGN-IN BOOK". In the event that your child is absent and the school has **not** been notified, a phone call will be made to determine the child's whereabouts (we call parents' work numbers and all emergency contact people stated on your child's registration form or yearly verification letter).

BUSSING:

Red Deer Public School District's Charter Bus (yellow) Service

RDPSD provides bus service to students living in Red Deer. Applications are available at the school offices.

Applications must be completed annually and submitted no later than the end of the second week of June of the current year.

2015 - 2016 busing costs: Application Fee: No charge if submitted before the end of the second week in June / after the end of the second week in June ~ \$20.00 / After January 31st ~ \$10.00 (no application fee for families who have just moved to Red Deer.) Bussing Fees: All payments must accompany the application at time of submission. ECS students: \$375.00/student/year | Regular student: \$750.00/student/year

City of Red Deer Bus Passes

For the 2015 /16 school year, students may choose a restricted pass or unrestricted pass. Restricted passes are limited to school operated days 6:15 am – 5:15 p.m. (This pass is NOT valid on school holidays or weekends).

An unrestricted pass may be used anytime transit operates.

Application fee. \$75.00 non-refundable Deadline for application: September 30, 2015

1. Students who live over 2.4 km from their designated school and GCS will be eligible to receive a restricted bus pass each month for no additional cost beyond the application fee. These students may also choose to upgrade to an unrestricted bus pass for an additional \$11.00 each month (**applications must be submitted by Sept. 30th – applications received after Sept. 30th are subject to bus fees of \$41 or \$52 per month.**)

2. Students living less than 2.4 km from their designated school or GCS will be able to purchase a restricted bus pass for \$41 per month or an unrestricted pass for \$52 per month in addition to the application fee.

3. If lost or stolen, a replacement pass would cost \$43 for restricted or \$54 for unrestricted.

CELL PHONE USE

Use of Electronic Devices in the Classroom

The following policy shall be **applicable to all students in grades 3-12**. Electronic devices such as cell phones, laptop computers, tablets and ipods are intended to be used as instructional tools during classroom instruction.

During designated breaks and/or with teacher authorization, such devices can be used for personal communication. The use of such devices to promote academic dishonesty or illegal/ungodly activities is strictly prohibited, and students should be made aware that electronic devices used during tests can result in a zero grade. The use of any electronic device in the classroom will be with the permission of the classroom teacher, and any decision made by an individual teacher to allow such devices does not necessitate that other teachers allow similar activities or that the individual teacher must allow similar activities in the future. Personal electronic devices should never be seen as being necessary for any activity, and students who do not have one will not be penalized. Students will not be permitted to use any electronic device to record audio or video without the teacher's expressed permission. No photos or videos of other students should be made, unless applicable to a specific project, and no such photos or videos should be posted online. Students who do not respect the decision of the classroom teacher will be subject to consequences as per the school Code of Conduct.

Classroom Disruption

Students will be able to carry their electronic devices to any class, but it will be the decision of the individual teacher as to whether or not devices may be used for a given lesson. Unless the teacher gives permission to use a given device, all electronic devices should be kept on the student's person, and may be seized if it is used without permission. If the teacher allows the use of the device for music, students must use earphones, and the volume of the music must not be loud enough to cause a distraction. Earphones must not be worn unless the teacher has given expressed permission, and if used, must be of the small "in the ear" variety. If the music can be heard by others, it will be deemed as inappropriate. As well, it is the classroom teacher who will decide whether the use of an electronic device is disruptive to the working environment of their classroom.

Break/Lunch

During any designated break and lunch period, students not finishing up instructional activities and/or serving detentions will be permitted to use personal electronic devices, including cell phones for text messaging and calling. Any device being used in a manner that contravenes any other school policy may still be seized for other reasons. Students will not be able to use electronic devices while going between classes unless the transition time occurs during a scheduled break.

Cellular Telephones

Ringtones must be turned to silent or on vibrate mode during the school day. Students will not engage in text messaging, playing games, or emailing during class time unless directed to do so by the teacher.

Some possible uses of cell phones may be as calculators, digital cameras or dictionaries. If a teacher has not pre-authorized use of such devices, the devices must remain on the student's person, and not be used in any way during class time.

CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

1. Minor Offences:

Most offences are minor in nature and are dealt with by the teacher at the classroom level. **A key feature is that they are infrequent or occasional in nature.** Consequences may include such things as discussions, reminders, reprimands and detentions. On occasion parents may be called, particularly if a student exhibits difficulty in breaking disruptive habits.

2. Major Offences:

- Physical aggression & violence or threats of the same
- Defiance of authority
- Abusive language or gestures
- Willful damage to, or theft of property
- Continuous disruptive behavior

The following steps will occur:

Step 1 – Teacher Intervention

In some cases the offence may be dealt with immediately and completely by the supervising teacher. For example, students engaged in aggressive playground behavior may be spoken to and separated for the remainder of the recess period. Usually, in consultation with the parent, the problem will be solved immediately and will not occur again.

Step 2 – Administration Intervention:

When a teacher determines that a student should be brought to an administrator for committing an offence, the administrator will speak to the student and will help him/her develop a plan (verbal or written) for avoiding the problem in the future. Parents may be notified and will be given an explanation of the problem and the plan.

Step 3 – In-School Suspension (ISS):

When a student commits a major offence, he/she may be assigned an In-School Suspension. During an ISS a student is assigned to an isolated area within the school, under supervision, and does not receive recesses. Parents will be notified when a student receives an In-School Suspension.

Step 4 – Home Suspension:

If, despite the use of the measures described above, a student continues to commit major offences, a home suspension may be given. During a home suspension, the offending student will be required to stay at home and will not be permitted to attend school. A home suspension will be from one to five days in length, depending on the severity of the offence and the number of previous infractions. Parents will be notified in writing when a home suspension is given and will also be contacted in person or by telephone. A copy of the suspension letter will also be sent to the superintendent of schools.

Please remember that, throughout the entire process, parents will be kept well informed and the student will receive all the positive support possible in order to help him/her to be successful in school.

CONTRABAND POLICY

IT IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE THAT STUDENTS NOT BRING ARTICLES TO SCHOOL THAT MAY POSE A SAFETY RISK TO OTHERS OR THAT MAY OFFEND SOME INDIVIDUALS.

The following is a list of a few items classified as contraband:

- Firearms (handguns, rifles, air rifles, pellet guns, toy guns, air soft handguns, water pistols or other weapons).
- Incendiary devices (ammunition, fire crackers, smoke bombs, lighters, etc.)
- Sharp objects (jack knives, etc.)
- Laser pointers
- Tobacco products (smoke or smokeless)
- Illicit drugs, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol
- Sexually explicit materials
- Energy Drinks (NOS, Monster, Red Bull, RockStar, Amp, etc.)

Any student who is aware that another student may have any of these articles in his/her possession is urged to quietly and privately inform a staff member so a harmful or negative situation may be avoided.

DRESS CODE

Our commitment at Gateway Christian School is to do all things in a way that is pleasing to our Lord and that will bring honor and glory to Him (1 Cor. 10:31). We are called to be ambassadors for Christ - Image Bearers. The GCS dress code has been established to provide minimum standards of dress and appearance that will assist parents and students in choosing appropriate clothing to be worn to classes and school-sponsored functions (on or off campus). We realize that clothing styles are cultural and cultural standards are not always right or wrong. However, student attire needs to be safe, conservative, modest, neat and appropriate; contributing to a positive school atmosphere and facilitating learning rather than detracting from it.

No dress code is able to address every possibility - the Administration will make final decisions regarding dress code compliance or questionable style. Students with inappropriate clothing will be asked to change, cover up, be

provided with an alternative or will be asked to call home for a suitable choice. We wish to assure students and parents that standards will be enforced and in these personal conversations, students will be dealt with in Christian love and fairness with concern for the individual involved.

- Students are asked to have no underwear showing.
- Students are allowed to wear hats at school except in worship or during prayer. Staff has the final say and may ask students to remove head-wear if it is inappropriate (logo/words), covers their face or causes a distraction.

EMERGENCY PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION

On occasion parents/guardians need to be contacted immediately. Please insure that the office has current information regarding the following:

- correct name
- address
- home/work/cell phone numbers
- emergency contact names & phone numbers
- doctor's name & phone number
- Alberta Health Care Number
- Allergies or other medical conditions

It is **imperative** that an alternate emergency contact person and number be available in the event the school office is unable to locate the parents. Should your child require immediate medical attention, the school will arrange for the child to be taken to the hospital and parents will be notified as soon as possible.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips provide students with fun, hands-on opportunities for learning. Permission forms will be sent home prior to each field trip. It is Red Deer Public School's policy that the permission forms be returned to school before students are allowed to go off campus. To avoid disappointment, please ensure the permission slip is signed and returned to your child's teacher by the due date.

FLEX PERIODS

Every student learns differently and has different areas of strength and different areas of need. Flex periods are scheduled time blocks that are designed for students to get extra help from a teacher, work on assignments, work with a classmate, or work on a group project.

Gr. 7 & 8 students: Periods 6 & 7 on Fridays

Gr. 9 students: Period 2 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

Gr. 10-12 students: At GCS or LTCHS Period 2 Monday-Friday.

FIRE DRILLS/LOCKDOWNS

Teachers prepare students for the drills that are performed throughout the school year. These discussions and practices will prepare students & staff in the event of a true emergency. Evacuation maps are posted in every room. If the situation warrants an evacuation to an alternative location, students and staff will walk to Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School (4204 – 58th Street) where all parents will be notified.

GYMWEAR

Students (Gr. 4 – 9) are required to change into gym clothes and indoor shoes for gym classes. Students are encouraged to purchase school gym strip but may bring a t-shirt and shorts from home. GCS gym strip can be purchased at the office – T-Shirts \$15, Shorts \$15. Please label your son's/daughter's gym strip.

HIGH SCHOOL

Moving Forward with High School Flexibility and Enhancement

We are privileged to offer an amazing high school program that is Christ centered and student focused. We are thrilled with the partner program that we have entered with Lindsay Thurber Composite High School. We are confident that together, we offer the best choice for countless programs and supports to your child's

social/emotional, spiritual, physical and academic success. We are committed to providing the knowledge, skills and attributes that are necessary for your child to flourish as they serve their community within their future endeavors. Gateway graduates leave our building with their lives transformed from the inside out and enter the world as engaged thinkers, ethical citizens and with a fearless mindset. Within our plan to support these desires, our work with the High School Flexibility and Enhancement Project includes some of the following:

- Teaching for Transformation
- Flexible Learning & Environments
- Student Teacher Advisory Team
- Cross Curricular Projects
- Personalized Learning

HOMEWORK

We believe that families provide the most important learning environment for children and that parents play an important role in their child(ren)'s success at school. There are many ways parents can help children extend their school learning. These include the following:

- Setting aside a regular time for homework
- Providing an undisturbed place for study
- Being available for assistance
- Giving support, encouragement, and praise to their children
- Ensuring that homework assignments are completed thoroughly and promptly

LOCKERS

Students are assigned lockers and expected to keep them tidy. Photos may be taped on the inside of the locker – if a teacher deems it to be offensive it will be removed. They **may not** use stickers, or put anything on the outside. Gr. 6 – 12 students are encouraged to purchase a lock for their lockers. The school cannot assume responsibility for lost/stolen property.

LUNCH SUPERVISION PROGRAM

Fees: ~ ECS full days: \$5.00 per student per month, Grades 1 – 9: \$11.00 per student per month

Fees payable to Gateway Christian School.

Kindergarten – Gr. 7: 11:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. (outside for recess)

12:20 p.m. – 12:40 p.m. (eating lunch in their classrooms)

Gr. 8 – 12: 11:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. (recess: option of going to the gym, library or outside)

12:20 p.m. – 12:40 p.m. (eating lunch in the Thunder Den)

MESSAGES TO STUDENTS

Before your children leave for school in the morning, please make sure they are aware of the arrangements needed at lunchtime and/or after school. We want to avoid interrupting classes to deliver messages during the day. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

NEWSLETTERS & MONTHLY CALENDARS:

Gateway Christian School is moving to paperless newsletters & calendars. Parents have the option of accessing our news via:

- our website <http://gateway.rdpsd.ab.ca/>
- email (If you have not provided the office with your email address and would like school news emailed to you, please email Mrs. McCullough – cathy.mccullough@rdpsd.ab.ca).
- If your child's teacher is using the text reminder application "Remind" please sign up. The application allows the teacher to send out classroom & school reminders via text message.
- Sign up for the school's office "Remind" by texting @gcsi to (587) 409-4538.
- For families without email or a computer, please stop by the office to pick up a paper version.

PARENT / SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

In an effort to maximize the safety of your children and our students, Red Deer Public School District has implemented requirements for school volunteers. All adults who volunteer in a school or at a school-sponsored activity, and who will have opportunity to interact with students during the course of their volunteer service, will need to provide the school with a Police Information Check (formerly known as a Criminal Record Check) and two written references that confirm the suitability of the individual to serve as a school volunteer.

The following forms are available at the school office.

- School Volunteer Registration Form (for you to complete and return to the school).
- Police Information Check Request Form, including a request for a Vulnerable Sector Check (for you to complete and provide to the RCMP when requesting a Police Information Check).
- Two Volunteer Reference Forms (for you to use in obtaining references).

A police information check is valid for 5 years from the date obtained.

New this year – a \$5.00 charge to obtain a Police Information Check.

If you plan to volunteer at more than one school in the Red Deer Public School District, the School Volunteer Registration Form enables you to provide consent for us to share your information and documents with other schools, so that you are not required to obtain more than one set of documents.

Thank you for your willingness to serve as a volunteer and for your understanding in meeting these new requirements.

PARENT VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

If you will be driving students (excluding your child/ren) to events this school year, Red Deer Public School requires all parents to fill out a Driver's Abstract. We also require a copy of your driver's license and pink slip. Forms are available at the school office. RDPSD would like all drivers' abstracts by September 15th, 2014.

PLAYGROUND BOUNDARIES:

Grades K-3 will be on the west playground and field.

Grades 4-5 will be on the east side of the school in the sports fields and will have access in Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., March, and April to playground on the north side.

Grades 6-7 will be on the east side of the school in the sports fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, beach volleyball courts, etc.

Grades 8 & 9 will be permitted to stay indoors during their breaks and lunchtime with access to the gymnasium, library and den. They may also access the fields on the east side of the school.

All students must stay within their respective areas and not go past the fenced boundaries. Students must also stay off of the public bike path that runs through the north side playground.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

The school has a "no contact rule" as it pertains to public displays of affection. Romantic physical expressions of affection are not permitted at school or school sponsored events.

RECESSES (MORNING & LUNCHTIME)

Generally, we do not allow students to remain inside the school because they are sick. We feel that if a child is well enough to be at school, they are well enough to spend this short amount of time outside. (Please ensure your child(ren) have the required clothing and footwear for the weather. If the temperature falls below -20° C or it's raining heavily, students will remain indoors.)

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Gateway Christian School Council extends a warm welcome to all returning families and all new families.

We pray your association with the school will be a blessing to your family.

The objectives of GCS council are as follows:

- To provide advice (input) to administration on issues of importance such as: programs and directions, and budget allocations to meet student needs.
- To stimulate continuous improvement in meaningful involvement by the school community.
- To uphold the common vision for our school.
- To keep the school board informed – in cooperation with the principal – of needs to the school.
- To support the school in its efforts to focus teachers' time and school resources on the essential tasks of teaching and learning.
- To have FUN!

All interested parents are welcome to attend our monthly joint meetings with the Red Deer Society for Christian Education. The meetings will take place in the school library. **Our first meeting is September 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.**

Monthly joint meeting with RDSCE!

Monday, September 21 th	Monday, February 22 nd
Monday, October 19 th	Monday, March 21 st
Monday, November 16 th	Monday, April 18 th
Monday, December 14 th (Society Only)	Monday, May 16 th and
Monday, January 18 th	Monday, June 20 th (Society Only)

Come out and meet other parents, stay informed and provide valuable input!

SCHOOL FEES

Gateway Christian School (GCS) fee structure is assessed on a per student basis. 2015/2016 school year alternative fees are set at High School (Gr. 10 – 12) \$75.00 per course Gr. 1 – 9: \$300 per student per year and Kindergarten: \$200.00 per student per year. These fees cover transportation subsidy, field trips; Christian Educators' Assoc. convention; rental of gyms/churches; chapel programming; membership in Christian Educators' Association (CEA) Christian Schools International (CSI); Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE); Christian curriculum and professional development).

Option fees: (If applicable)

Gr. 6 Exploratory Options: \$30.00

Junior High Band Rental/Maintenance: \$112

Rec. Ed (Transportation/Venue Rental): Junior High Option - \$40

Industrial Arts (Project Materials) ~ Junior High Option - \$30

Scrapbooking Materials – Junior High Option - \$30.00

Foods: Junior High Option - \$30.00

Art: Junior High Option - \$30.00

GRADE 10 -12 ONLY: TEXTBOOK (1/3 of textbook cost) ~ billed each semester.

Other fees:

Swimming (Grades 3 – 6) – cost amount dependent on program (to be paid when class goes swimming)

Sports Teams - \$15 - \$155 per sport (depending on the sport) Grades 7 – 9 Paid at time of playing sports.

Gym Strip (strongly recommended for Grades 4 – 9) Shorts - \$ 15; T-Shirts - \$ 15

Lunchroom supervision fees: Gr. 1 - 9: \$11.00 per student per month ~ Kindergarten: \$5.00 per student per month.

Payment of alternative school fees & lunchroom supervision fees may be made as a lump sum; or by means of post-dated cheques over a ten month period. Payment options: cash, cheque(s), Visa, MC or Debit.

SEARCH & SEIZURE:

Red Deer Public School District policy states that the following may be subject to search: students, school desks, lockers and school storage areas used by students; articles and objects belonging to, in the possession of, or used by students either on school board premises or during off-site activities including, but not limited to, backpacks, clothing, purses, suitcases, and tote bags; and district electronic information resources used by students.

SIGN IN

Parents & guests are always welcome at GCS. When you visit our school please sign in and out. The sign in book is located on the counter at the office. Please provide your name, the date & time you arrive and when you exit. Thank you!

STUDENT ENTRANCES:

Students are to use to the following entrances to enter and to leave the school:

Southwest side: ECS, 1A & 1D

West side: Gr. 1We, 1Wo & 2K

Northwest side: Gr. 2Sc, 2Sa and all Gr. 3 classes

Northeast side: Gr. 4 & 5 students

East side: Gr. 6 students

Southeast side: Gr. 7 & 8 students

Main, front doors: Gr. 9-12

SUPERVISION (BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL)

Your child's safety is our #1 concern. Please assist us in keeping our students and your children safe. Teachers are on playground supervision from 8:20 a.m. – 8:30 a.m., morning recess & after school from 3:14 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Lunch supervisors provide supervision over the lunch break). Please do NOT drop off your child on the playground or at the school prior to 8:20 a.m. **There is no adult supervision prior to 8:20 a.m.**, as our staff is busy getting ready for the school day. If you cannot pick up your child between 3:14 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., please make alternate child care arrangements as there is **no adult supervision after 3:30 p.m.**

Student Threat Assessment



What behaviours initiate a Student Threat Assessment?

A Student Threat Assessment may be initiated when, in the judgment of the principal, behaviours include, but are not limited to: serious violence, written/verbal threats to harm others and possession of weapons.

Duty to Report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents and students have a responsibility to report threat related behaviours.

What is a threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture. Threats will be taken seriously and investigated.

What is a Threat Assessment Team?

Each school has a Threat Assessment Team which is multi-disciplinary. The team may include the principal, vice principal, designated Central Services personnel, social worker, psychologist, counselor and/or police.

What are the purposes of a Student Threat Assessment?

The purposes of a Student Threat Assessment are:

- to ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others.
- to ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- to begin to understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviour.
- to be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker.
- to promote emotional and physical safety.

What happens in a Student Threat Assessment?

All threat making behaviour(s) by a student(s) shall be reported to the principal who will determine the actions to be taken.

Interviews may be held with the student(s), the threat maker, outside agencies, parents and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident.

Intervention plans may be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required.

Can I refuse to be a part of the Student Threat Assessment process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. If for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment.