

gateway

christian school



Kindergarten – Gr. 8 Handbook 2016 - 2017

**4210 – 59 Avenue
Red Deer, AB T4N 2M9**

Phone Number: (403) 346-5795

E-Mail Address: gateway@rdpsd.ab.ca

GCS Homepage: <http://gateway.rdpsd.ab.ca/>

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



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/mychildslearning/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 17 years ago.

Gateway Christian School's Staff List

Principal	Teresa Tataryn	Grade 8M	Eric Mueller
Vice-Principal	Jeremy Horlings	Grade 8P	Yvonne Prins
Vice-Principal	Chris Kooman	High School & ID	Tyler Capton
Secretaries	Aletta Cartwright	High School & Band	Graham Langridge
	Cathy McCullough	High School	Miranda Beukema
	Heather Poettcker	High School	Cathy Tilstra
ECS M/W	Alexandra Dennis	Bible	Barbara Barthel
ECS M/W	Carissa Keys	Art & Music	Codi Kreil
ECS T/T	Stacey Lodewyk	LAT	Lynette Loonstra
Grade 1B	Kaylee Barnstable	Athletic Director	Mike McCorquindale
Grade 1J	Jobena Westera		
Grade 1W	Karen Wolfmeyer		
Grade 2P	Jenna Parsons	Educational Assistants:	Lois Andersen
Grade 2R	Sandra Rhoad		Lani Morgan
Grade 2S	Geri Lee Sayers		Sharla Nimchuk
Grade 3G	Ger Klootwyk		Heather Poettcker
Grade 3K	John Kranenborg		Melissa Seinen
Grade 3S/LAT	Lucille Snyder		Nicole Stolte
Grade 4D	Kerrie-Ann Dalstra		Cathy Vaartstra
Grade 4K	Shaun Kranenborg		Lynnette Veuger
Grade 4S	Donelda Schultz		
Grade 5B	Leah Baker	Librarian:	Verla OpdenDries
Grade 5D	Jim Driedger		
Grade 6M	Amy McAllister		
		Community Liaison Worker	Viki Hedlund
Grade 6P	Heidi Prins		
Grade 7A	Carmen Archer		
Grade 7B	Megan Brown	Caretakers:	Hassan Hamud
			Bob Nelson
			Bob White

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 concerns that do not involve the classroom teacher and in those cases, you may choose to contact the admin rep for your child's grade:

Mrs. Teresa Tataryn: Kindergarten – Gr. 4

Mr. Jeremy Horlings: Gr. 5 – 8

Mr. Chris Kooman: Gr. 9 - 12

Daily Schedule

Kindergarten – Gr. 8

Firstbell	8:30
Period1.....	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

OFFICE HOURS

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

Secretaries: Heather Poettcker & Cathy McCullough **Financial Secretary:** Aletta Cartwright

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). Monthly absence reports are reviewed by admin and parents who have children in the top 20 will receive a call home.

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.

2016 - 2017 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 (post dated cheques are accepted). ECS students: \$375.00/student/year | Regular student: \$750.00/student/year

City of Red Deer Bus Passes

The City of Red Deer has moved to a Smart Ride system. This is a plastic card that is valid for the entire year.

Students who live less than 2.4 km from their designated school or our school will no longer be able to purchase their bus passes at school (passes are available at the City of Red Deer Transit Department).

Students who live over 2.4 km from their designated school and our school may purchase an annual Transit bus pass at the office. Two types of City Transit bus passes are available.

- a. **Restricted Bus Pass:** School days only, no weekends or holidays. (\$75.00 application fee)
- b. **Unrestricted Bus Pass:** May be used any time City Transit operates. (\$75.00 application fee plus \$80.00 bussing upgrade fee).

*****To purchase your bus pass at these rates, you must purchase your bus pass before the end of September!**

Students will no longer have the option to come to the office and pay monthly – ALL upgrades and purchases must be paid in full before you receive the card. If you choose to upgrade your pass, you must submit the Transit application with the \$75 application fee and the \$80 upgrade fee. Please contact the school office to discuss payment options.

A replacement pass will be issued by the school for a cost of \$10.00 (Replacement may take up to 24 hours). There is no refund for transit applications once a transit pass has been issued. If a student upgrades to an unrestricted pass and then withdrawals from the school, they can surrender their pass and apply for a full refund for all unused months that have been paid for.

In order to guarantee students receive their bus pass on the first day of school, application forms and payments must be submitted to the school before the end of the current school year (June).

If you return your transit app & payment AFTER the end of September:

1. Only applications from Eligible students (students living more than 2.4 km from designated school and school of choice) will be accepted.
2. Students will ONLY be able to purchase Restricted passes for \$47 per month (\$470 per year) or Unrestricted pass for \$55 per month (\$550 per year).
3. You **WILL NOT** be eligible to receive a subsidized pass (this is the free Restricted pass or the \$8/month Unrestricted pass), regardless of the distance you are from your designated school. To avoid having to pay for a pass that you could have received for free, please make sure to send in your Transit application before the end of September.

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 be sent to the office for disciplinary reasons.

CODE OF CONDUCT

It is our commitment to establish and maintain a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment for all students and school staff. It is important to have a balance between individual and collective rights, freedoms, and responsibilities in a school community. This code of conduct conveys our desire to publish expectations for student behavior while at school, at school-related activity or while engaging in an activity that may have an impact on others in the school.

WHEREAS it is recognized in Alberta as a fundamental principle and as a matter of public policy that all persons are equal in: dignity, rights and responsibilities without regard to race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, physical disability, mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation.

Section 12 of the School Act is a reinforcement of our desire to see the following acceptable behaviors. Failure to comply with the code of conduct may be grounds for suspension or expulsion under the section 24.1 and 24.2 of the Act. Therefore, we encourage the compliance of the following behavior:

- Respect yourself and the rights of others in the school.
- Make sure your conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment in the school that respects the diversity and fosters a sense of belonging of others in your school.
- Refrain from, report and refuse to tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour, even if it happens outside of the school or school hours or electronically.
- Inform an adult you trust in a timely manner of incidents of bullying, harassment, intimidation or other safety concerns in the school.
- Act in ways that honours and appropriately represents you and your school.
- Attend school regularly and punctually.
- Be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue your education.
- Know and comply with the rules of your school.
- Cooperate with all school staff.
- Be accountable for your behaviour to your teachers and other school staff.
- Contribute positively to your school and your community.

The consequences of engaging in unacceptable behavior will take into account the student's age, maturity, and individual circumstances. Support will be provided to students impacted by inappropriate behaviour and to those students who engage in inappropriate behaviour. Examples would include: PBIS strategies, mentoring, restorative processes, regular check-ins with teachers or community liaison worker, etc.

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
- Cyber bullying

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, slingshots, 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 must 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 8 & 9 on Fridays.

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

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 – 8) 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 – 8: \$11.00 per student per month

Fees payable to Gateway Christian School.

Kindergarten – Gr. 6: 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. 7 – 8: 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.

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.

Once all the appropriate paperwork has been handed into the office and the principal has approved the volunteer, the volunteer must:

- please sign in/out at the office each visit.
- wear a VISITOR lanyard each visit.

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, 2016.

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 6-8 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

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 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.**

Monthly joint meeting with RDSCE!

Tuesday, September 20th

Tuesday, October 18th

Tuesday, November 15th

Tuesday, December 13th (Society Only)

Tuesday, January 24th

Tuesday, February 28th

Tuesday, March 21st

Tuesday, April 18th

Tuesday, May 23rd and

Tuesday, June 20th (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. 2016/2017 school year alternative fees are set at High School (Gr. 9 – 12) \$140.00 school fee plus \$50.00 Alternative Program Fee per core course/subject; Gr. 1 – 8: \$300 per student per year and Kindergarten: \$200.00 per student per year. These fees cover: transportation subsidy; field trips; rental of churches; worship/chapel programming; membership in Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE) & PCCE convention; Christian curriculum and professional development).

Option fees: (If applicable - to be paid the first day of school)

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

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 – 8 (Paid at time of playing sport)
Gym Strip (strongly recommended for Grades 4 – 8) Shorts - \$ 15; T-Shirts - \$ 15

LUNCH ROOM SUPERVISION Gr. 1 - 8: \$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 at the beginning of the school year; 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. All parents & guests must stop by the office to sign-in/out and wear a visitor lanyard.

All volunteers must provide the office with the following forms: School Volunteer Registration Form, Police Information Check and Two Volunteer References. Volunteers must also:

- sign in/out at the office each visit.
- wear a VISITOR lanyard each visit.

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

STUDENT ENTRANCES:

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

Southwest side: ECS classes, 1W & 2S

West side: Gr. 1B, 1J & 2P

Northwest side: Gr. 2R, all Gr. 3 classes & 4S

Northeast side: Gr. 4D, 4K and Gr. 5 classes

East side: Gr. 6 classes & 7A

Southeast side: Gr. 7B & Gr. 8 classes

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.

PLEASE NOTE:

Although the information contained in this handbook is accurate to the best of our knowledge, it is subject to the policies and procedures of the Board of Trustees and is also subject to change without prior notice. Readers are advised to consult with the school administration if they have any questions regarding the contents of this handbook.