



## STUDENT COMMITMENT STATEMENT

To make Fireside School an excellent school, I commit to:

- showing pride in myself, in my work, and in my school.
- treating myself and others with respect and courtesy.
- using appropriate language.
- being a responsible digital citizen.
- trying my best.
- taking care of school property. We have a beautiful school, let's keep it that way.
- helping Fireside School be as "green" as it can be, by "packing in and packing out".

I commit to doing my best to make Fireside School a welcoming and positive place to learn.

Together, we SOAR!

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

***This agenda belongs to:***

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

## OUR VISION

### *OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN DOORS*

- At Fireside School, we develop learners as whole persons, who are strongly equipped with resiliency, both academically and socially.
- Learners are prepared and receptive to successfully and independently venture into unknown challenges that they encounter in their journey through life.

## OUR MISSION

- At Fireside School, we endeavour to support our learners by making learning interactive and meaningful.
- We strive to develop the whole child through thoughtful, intentional educational process, connection to the real world and responsiveness to change.
- Creativity, curiosity and compassion is cultivated and supported in all learners.
- Through working and playing in our school, in our community and in the outdoors, we are mindful of the goals of Rocky View Schools, the province and our school community.
- We listen to each other and remain open to possibilities of change.

## GUIDING BELIEFS

### **Social-Emotional Relationships:**

- Learners get to know themselves and others as learners and people.
- Learners practice building successful and nourishing relationships with students, adults and the world that surrounds us.
- Learners develop resiliency skills that help them navigate the normal ups and downs of life.

### **Innovation, Openness, Flexibility and Creativity:**

- Learners develop a mind-set that fosters creativity, flexibility, innovation and openness that cultivates curiosity in the real world.

### **Competencies**

- Learners develop competencies that allow them to be successful and contributing participants in an ever-evolving world.
- Learners leave our school with a strong set of foundational skills in Numeracy and Literacy.

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## SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION



Address: 12 Fireside Parkway, Cochrane, Alberta, T4C 2L8

Website: <http://fireside.rockyview.ab.ca/>

Twitter: @FiresideRVS

Email: [fireside@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:fireside@rockyview.ab.ca)

Main Office Line .....403-932-4868

Absence/Late Line .....403-932-4868 then press 2

## IMPORTANT DATES

*\*Dates may be subject to change. Please check the Fireside School Website calendar for any changes.\**

August 31 – Open House	December 22-January 6 – No Classes
September 4 – First Day of School	February 15-24 – No Classes
September 19 – Meet the Staff	March 18 – No Classes
September 24 – No Classes	April 3-4 – Project Based Learning Exhibition
October 5–8 - No Classes	April 19-28 – No Classes
October 24 & 25 – 3-Way Conferences	May 17-20 – No Classes
November 12 – No Classes	June 26 – Last Day of School
December 3 – No Classes	

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## ALLERGIES

### FIRESIDE IS AN ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL

Fireside School is an allergy aware school where we strive to ensure the ongoing safety of our students and staff. This includes ensuring that we are sensitive to the health risks associated with food allergies within the school, which most commonly (but not exclusively) includes peanuts, tree nuts, eggs, dairy, shellfish, gluten, and soy. For the safety of those who may have a severe allergic reaction to peanuts and tree nuts, we request that you **do not send peanut or nut products to school with your child** in lunches, for snack, bakes sales or classroom celebrations.

### BEING *ALLERGY AWARE* MEANS WE ARE:

- **Aware** that allergic reactions can be severe, rapid and life-threatening
- **Aware** that some of our students or staff may have severe allergies
- **Aware** that it is everyone's right to be safe at school
- **Aware** of the signs and of anaphylaxis, and what to do if you see it

If a student has a severe food allergy, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the office as soon as possible so that precautions can be set in place. If your child carries an Epi-Pen, an up-to-date prescription and a signed medication administration authorization form should be submitted to the front office for emergency use. Please note that although we are allergy aware and make every effort to keep students from being exposed to allergens, we cannot guarantee it will never occur.

## BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Sherpa Kids offers before and after school care at Fireside School. They begin at 7:00 am until 7:55am and after school from 2:30pm to 5:45pm. For further information, please consult their website at: <http://www.sherpakids.ca/>

## **BELL TIMES, RECESS AND LUNCH BREAK INFORMATION**

### **GRADES 1 - 8**

7:55 AM	Bus drop-off / student arrival
8:00 AM	Entry Bell
8:10 AM - 8:25 AM	Fireside Chat
8:25 AM - 10:05 AM	Instructional Time
10:05 AM - 10:25 AM	Snack/Recess
10:25 AM - 12:05 PM	Instructional Time
12:05 PM - 12:25 PM	Gr 1-4 Lunch in Classroom (20 min) / Gr 5-8 Outside Recess (20 min)
12:25 PM - 12:45 PM	Gr 5-8 Lunch in Classroom (20 min) / Gr 1-4 Outside Recess (20 min)
12:45 PM - 2:25 PM	Instructional Time
2:30 PM	Bus pick-up

### **KINDERGARTEN**

AM Classes		PM Classes	
7:55 AM	Bus drop-off / student arrival	11:40 AM	Student Arrival
8:05 AM - 10:50 AM	Instructional Time	11:40 AM - 2:25 PM	Instructional Time
10:50 AM	Student pick-up	2:30 PM	Student/Bus pick-up

### **CHILD DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR (CDA)**

Students are encouraged to consult with Ms. Clark, our CDA, if they are having social or emotional difficulties, if they would like help in solving a personal problem, or if they wish for information about career planning. The CDA may refer students and / or families to other individuals or agencies. Students can drop by and talk to the CDA any time, if they are facing a challenge. Parents may contact the counsellor by telephoning the school. The CDA offers students a place to talk and discuss in confidence. As well, guidance can be given with organizational skills, and study and friendship skills.

Programs that are offered through the CDA:

- Grandparent program
- Conflict Mediation
- Teen mentoring – through the Big Brothers, Big Sisters community partnership
- Boys and Girls club at lunch
- Lunch Time mentoring

## **FIRESIDE SCHOOL'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Code of Conduct at Fireside is grounded in the belief that our primary purpose is **learning** – intellectual, physical, social, and emotional learning.

The foundation of this learning is **respect** for self and others.

We are proud of the responsible attitude and behaviour that is willingly and routinely demonstrated by our students. On occasion, students need our help and it is necessary to take specific actions to teach and encourage more appropriate behaviour.

**Fireside's Code of Conduct is based on the following principles:**

- All students have worth and dignity.
- All students are capable of learning cooperation and respect for others.
- Enforcement of school expectations is consistent, predictable, fair and kind.
- Strategies / consequences are appropriate for the behaviour and for the individual student and teach responsible attitudes whenever possible.

**Response to Inappropriate Behaviours:**

- We generally begin with simple reminders, and then progress to structured problem-solving. This can involve the classroom teacher, parents, resource staff, CDA, Positive Behaviour Strategist (PBS) and school administration.

**When investigating incidents, we:**

- seek to understand what happened rather than assuming.
- are effective, more than efficient, thus taking the time needed for all parties to be heard, looking to understand an as accurate picture of the situation as possible.
- keep every student's dignity and our dignity intact.

**Our problem-solving structure includes the following:**

- Taking adequate time to clarify the incident and the problem
- Brain-storming solutions with students / parents / teachers when appropriate
- Choosing an appropriate solution
- Scheduling a time to follow up on how things are going
- Mediation through our CDA (Child Development Advisor)
- Working with our PBS (Positive Behaviour Specialist)

There are behaviours that are unacceptable, including violence, possession or use of drugs and / or alcohol, possession or use of weapons, and direct defiance of an adult. In the case of these behaviours, our progressive discipline model could include, as a minimum, removal from classroom or playground, or as a maximum, out of school suspension of five days or recommendation of expulsion to the school board.

Specific expectations are regularly shared with students over the course of the year, particularly during our first week at school. We know that all humans make mistakes, and that most mistakes can be resolved, and represent opportunities for growth. There is great capacity amongst humans for healing and resolution.

## **FRIENDS OF FIRESIDE SCHOOL SOCIETY (FOFS)**

Funds for school projects are raised by our Friends of Fireside School Society. Currently, FOFS is raising the funds necessary to build our playground. FOFS has a webpage on Fireside School's website. You can access information about FOFS at: <http://fireside.rockyview.ab.ca/fofs>

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

At Fireside School we value outdoor learning and classes spend time learning outside. As such, students should always be dressed and prepared to go outside. Students will have outdoor recess in the morning and again at lunch. All students will go outside during these times unless the weather is colder than -20 Celsius. Please consult the RVS inclement weather procedure about transportation impact during extreme weather conditions:

<http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/transportation/inclementweather>

## **LEARNING SUPPORT AT FIRESIDE SCHOOL**

At Fireside we have Learning Support from grades K-8. Learning Support looks different at every grade as our goal is to meet the needs of our learners. Learning Support might be in-class support or small group support. It might be individually based or whole class instruction. Learning Support staff work collaboratively with classroom teachers to best meet the needs of our students.

Learning Support also supports the development of Individual Program Plans (IPPs). Fireside IPPs are created in the fall, reviewed in the winter, and reviewed again in the spring. We work collaboratively with families when creating IPPs. Parents are involved in the creation process by completing a parent survey at the beginning stages of IPP development and can meet with staff at any point throughout the year to discuss their child's IPP.

The Roost is a safe place for our students to come and get academic support. Students can request to come to the Roost at any time during the school day to get the academic support they need. Students often access the Roost to complete individual work, to get help with a writing task, or write a test in an alternative environment. The possibilities are endless!

## **LOST & FOUND**

Students are expected to accept personal responsibility for their possessions. The school will endeavour, as much as possible, to help recover lost or stolen articles. The Lost and Found rack and containers are located in the Hawks' Nest. Articles left in Lost and Found will be brought to the Salvation Army on a regular basis depending on the number of articles left behind.

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS**

Parents are the most important educators in their child's life, and their participation in their children's school education is a major factor in student achievement. The following are important factors for parents to consider in supporting their children at Fireside School:

- The value of regular attendance at school.
- Communicate absences with the school office on the day of their child's absence.
- Communicate with their child's teacher(s) to resolve issues or concerns that may arise.
- Model appropriate ways to solve conflict.
- Become active in volunteering in some capacity within the school (Field Studies, School Council, Tuck Shop, Classroom help, Friends of Fireside, Reading with Students, etc.).

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

All parents and guardians of students attending Fireside School are automatically part of our school council. School council normally meets once a month and it is an excellent way to participate in the life of our school. School Council is an advisory body that helps the school administration to make decisions and give feedback on initiatives and programs. Fireside School Council has a webpage on the Fireside website. You can access meeting dates and times, agendas and minutes at the following link: <http://fireside.rockyview.ab.ca/school-council>

## **SPECIAL LUNCH PROGRAM**

**HEALTHY HUNGER:** Once a month our school has a special lunch that is organized through Healthy Hunger. Parents are encouraged to set up an account with Healthy Hunger, where they can order lunches for those days and can also specify special dietary requirements. The website for Healthy Hunger is: <https://www.healthyhunger.ca>

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student Leadership is an important part of Fireside School. Students are encouraged to be a part of student leadership from grades five to eight, however, we have also had some participation from students as young as grade one, depending on the activity. We are intentional in not making leadership an option class to ensure that participation is entirely voluntary. We meet usually once per week and plan activities that will provide a service to our school community. Students have planned and executed school assemblies, have given school tours to guests and new families and have supported staff in school climate initiatives. Students do not have to be in leadership all year, rather they are able to select the activities they would like to be a part of.

## STUDENT RECOGNITION

**SOARING AT FIRESIDE - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SOAR AT FIRESIDE?**

**S ...IS FOR *SPIRIT*** - BEING POSITIVE, PARTICIPATING IN CLASS AND SCHOOL EVENTS, BEING “BUCKET FILLERS”, TAKING PRIDE IN BETTERING THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT.

**O ...IS FOR *OUTSTANDING CHARACTER*** - DEMONSTRATING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: LEADERSHIP SKILLS, EMPATHY TOWARDS OTHERS, SHOWING KINDNESS, BEING HELPFUL TO OTHERS.

**A ...IS FOR *ACHIEVEMENT*** - EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS OR FINE ARTS OR ATHLETICS. DEMONSTRATES GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN A SKILL OR SUBJECT AREA.

**R ...IS FOR *RESPECT/RESPONSIBILITY*** - SHOWING RESPECT TO SELF, OTHERS OR PROPERTY; DEMONSTRATING RELIABILITY AND TRUSTWORTHINESS.

- Kindergarten students will learn how to SOAR together by doing activities in class and the community.
- Grade One and Two students will earn their SOAR feathers together through activities where they learn what it looks like to SOAR at Fireside.
- Grade Three up to Grade Six will begin to be nominated for school awards when they show exemplary conduct that we celebrate at Fireside.
- Our oldest students in Grade Seven and then in Grade Eight will also be able to be nominated for school awards but will also begin to assist in organizing school assemblies and celebrations to honour how students are SOARing at Fireside.

Students will have their pictures displayed on the school monitors along with the criteria that have led to their recognition.

## TECHNOLOGY

Fireside School aims to leverage technology as an access point to learning. We are a one to one school in grades seven and eight, encouraging students to bring their own device should they wish to. We provide access to Chromebooks, MacBooks and iPads, depending on the grade level a student is in. Technology should be used to make learning accessible for students, to provide choice in how student work is produced and delivered and to provide another instructional strategy for staff. We do **not** encourage the use of cell phones and tablets as communication devices between students or as an access to social media. This is discouraged, particularly during class time.

All students and staff are required to sign a Responsible Use Agreement at the beginning of each year.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones can be brought to school, however, we ask that students leave their cell phones in their lockers and only check them, if needed, during the lunch time recess. During the morning recess and the eating time of lunch we recommend that students speak to one another, enjoy their lunch and focus on being social with staff and students and remain screen-free as with the morning recess.

## TWO SHOE POLICY

We are currently adhering to a two-shoe policy. This means that students should arrive with weather appropriate shoes/boots that allow them to spend time outside during recesses. We also recommend that students have one pair of shoes that they are able to wear indoors at school. This second pair of shoes could, for example, be a pair of runners that is used in the gymnasiums as well. Please ensure that the inside shoes have a non-marking sole.

## TRANSPORTATION & SCHOOL BUS

Follow the driver's instructions at all times. He/she is in full charge of the bus and is responsible for your safety.

- Be considerate of the other passengers and the bus driver.
- Have respect for the bus and contents.
- Sit squarely on the seat, facing forward, keeping head, limbs and objects inside the bus and out of the aisle. This is the safest way to travel on a school bus and may prevent serious injuries.
- Keep noise level to a minimum. Loud noises and shouting are dangerously distracting to the driver.
- Students may be suspended from using the bus if the above guidelines are not followed. We encourage the bus drivers to file "Bus Misconduct Forms" with the administration, should behaviour on the bus fall short of the expectations set.
- You may be asked to sit in a certain spot by the driver in order to ensure an orderly ride to and from school.

## VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are an important and necessary part of a vibrant school community. They model to our students and community that doing things in the service of others is a normal and important part of being a community member.

In keeping with the RVS policy, volunteers must have a criminal record check/vulnerable sector check on file and must sign annual declarations that no offences have occurred.

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## FIRESIDE CHEER AND SONG

In an effort to create a cohesive and vibrant school culture, our staff and students decided to create a school cheer and song. The Fireside Cheer was created by Mr. Adams and his grade 3/4 class and the school song was created by grade 6 students with the help of Ms. Laughton, our Band teacher. You can hear a recording of the school song on our website at: <http://fireside.rockyview.ab.ca/students/school-song>

### **FIRESIDE CHEER**

When I say **Fireside**, you say **Rocks**  
Fireside **Rocks** – Fireside **Rocks**  
When I say **Fireside**, you say **Hawks**  
Fireside **Hawks** – Fireside **Hawks**

Each our own hawk – but we all work together  
Each one is special - down to each feather  
As one strong community - We will soar high  
Four houses united – forest, river, mountain and sky!

### **FIRESIDE SONG**

Perched above our town, like a hawk sits way up high,  
We welcome you to our school  
We call it Fireside!

#### **CHORUS:**

**Beneath our wings, you'll learn and grow;**  
**Beneath our wings, you'll share what you know:**  
**Open minds, open hearts, open doors....**  
**Beneath our wings, each one unique;**  
**Beneath our wings, all one community:**  
**And when you're ready, you'll take to the sky!**  
**From Fireside.**

We're helping each other, learning new things every day;  
Stronger together, we show each other the way!  
From the Roost to the Hawks' Nest, in our houses, we get along!  
So listen up, here we are, we're singing you this song:  
River! Forest! Mountain! Sky!

**(REPEAT CHORUS TWICE)**