



Dear Parents and/or Guardians of Grade 8 at Fireside School,

Welcome to grade 8 - it is going to be a wonderful year! All grade 8 students will have multiple teachers this year. Mrs. Dancey will be teaching all students LA, Health, PE and Social to 8-2. Mr. Adams will be teaching all students Science and Math and Social to 8-1. Mrs. Hamilton will be also teaching PE to all students. A variety of teachers teach options. Note that this year's options run in 6 week rotations.

Please note that communication between home and school can be accessed through our school website. Our teacher pages and links to resources can be found by accessing: <http://fireside.rockyview.ab.ca/> Our direct contacts are [ddancey@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:ddancey@rockyview.ab.ca) and [gadams@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:gadams@rockyview.ab.ca). Typically you can expect us to respond to emails within a 24 hour period on business days.

A little information to be successful in grade 8 at Fireside:

**Assignments/Projects:**

In Grade 8, it is critical that students take ownership, completing and submitting assignments and projects. Class time is always given for these assignments and projects, but students will also be required to take this work home to complete or fine tune them by designated due dates. In addition, students need to prepare for tests and quizzes with review and practice at home.

Important school dates, test, quiz, assignment, and project due dates can be found on Google Classroom and Calendar, accessible on our teacher pages accessed on the school's website and through Google Drive. Your child will be shown how to access this calendar, and we feel that by grade 8, he/she is responsible for knowing how (and telling his/her parents how) to access this homework calendar. If however, you do need assistance, please email us.

**Late policy for assignments and projects:**

Your child is expected to communicate with his/her teachers if he/she is unable to complete an assignment or project on time. After the due date, the assignment will be marked as 'missing' on PowerSchool. Once significant time has passed, if the assignment has not been submitted, then a grade will be given based on teacher observation of the student's draft work. (this is often Limited or Beginning)

**Cellphones:**

Cells are to be left in the student's locker during the day except during recess. Communication between parents and students may be made during this time. If you need to send a message to your child during another part of the day, you may call the school office. Cellphones are not to be used as a learning tool, and therefore, a calculator must be provided for math and all other access can be on their computers.

**Computers:**

We use Google Drive and Classroom quite extensively, so students should be prepared to complete a lot of work on computer. If your child doesn't have a computer, they can borrow one on a daily basis from our Learning Commons. Students will need to complete and return the necessary form so that Mrs. Greenland can provide them with a Chromebook.

**Instant messenger:**

Many students have access to messages on their laptops. We ask that students disable this messenger application during class time so that they are not distracted by messages from their peers or parents while in class.

**Power School:**

With regards to PowerSchool, marks will be updated regularly depending on if there are marks to enter. Please visit PowerSchool so that you are up to date with your child's assignments, class schedule/timelines, attendance, and marks. You will have to use their login information to access this information. Power School technical assistance for parents can be found at:<http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/families/families/powerschool> or contact Mrs. Bujold at the front office.

**Volunteering**

We will be looking for volunteers throughout the year to help us with field trips or special class events. Information regarding volunteering in the classroom will be forthcoming but if you have a desire to help out in any way please ensure your criminal record check is up to date.

**Lunches**

Fireside School is a 'closed campus' school which means that students must stay on campus for lunch unless they have special permission by parents/guardians and are signed out at the front office. Please ensure that students come prepared with refillable water bottles, a healthy lunch and snacks that don't need heating up as there are no microwaves for student use.

**Lunch waste**

As environmental leaders, the Fireside community will be encouraged to limit our waste. Please think about how you and your child can create waste free lunches. Suggestions include:

- sandwiches and other main dishes are in reusable containers
- recycling paper, plastic and juice boxes here, and 'pack-out' other recycling and compost for home (metals, food scraps etc...)

Once again, we are so excited to teach your children and hope that this is a wonderful year for everyone; if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to getting to know you and working with your child this year.

Sincerely,

Denise Dancey (LA, Social, Health, PE)

Grayson Adams (Social, Science, Math)