**Welcome to Mr. Adams’ Class – grade 8**

**2019/2020**

Hello and welcome to Fireside School. My name is Grayson Adams and I am thrilled to be your child’s teacher. I look forward to getting to know you and your child. This note is not meant to inundate you on the first week of school, but I hope will serve as a chance to introduce myself and explain a few things about our school and classroom communities.

This year I will be teaching Mathematics and Science for both 8.1 and 8.2, as well as Social Studies for 8.1. I will also be teaching Drawing and Painting, Food Studies and Outdoor Leadership Education as optional courses.

**Course Outlines for Mathematics, Science and Social Studies are provided on the Fireside School website. All assignment, project, quiz and exam information will be provided to parents and students through google classroom and the linked google calendar. Assignment completion and assessment information is provided to parents and students through RockyView School’s PowerSchool system.**

**A Little Bit About Me**

I am very excited to be part of the Fireside team and teach this second grade 8 class of our school. I taught here at Fireside the last two years and was previously a member of the Glenbow school community here in Cochrane. A huge welcome to you if your family is new to Fireside, we are so glad that you are here.

Activity on the land is an important part of who I am, and I love to ski, hike and bike. At the end of the school days I go home to my wife and child, who was born only just last spring. Watching a new little person engage the world is sure a wonderful way to experience the world.

**Teaching Philosophy**

# Learning environments must first and foremost be places of respect, care, compassion, and community as this allows students to be known, feel safe, feel empowered, and become more confident, knowledgeable and resilient.

# Foundational literacy and numeracy skills are vital for students to be successful and are central to my classroom. These foundational skills will be taught and learned in a variety of ways, with an emphasis on authentic learning opportunities. Children need to engage in relevant and meaningful work that empowers them to observe, contemplate, and impact our world. Children learn well when engaged in experiences that foster inquiry and critical thinking. I also believe that the cultivation of student voice and conviction is a critical part of the formation of identity and integrity. In my classroom, students will be given many opportunities to share their thoughts and opinions in a variety of ways.

# Another critical component of learning is reflection, and our classroom will pause regularly so that students can formulate their own understandings and notice their thoughts and emotions. I believe that *place,* especially natural spaces*,* is critical to learning, and that our natural world encourages imagination, creativity and curiosity.

Once again, I am so delighted to begin the school year together and look forward to meeting you and teaching your child. If you have questions or need to be in contact with me then please email gadams@rockyview.ab.ca or call the school at 403.932.4868.

Sincerely,

Grayson Adams