

# **FIRESIDE FOCUS**



## Fireside Focus: 2024-25 Back to School Edition!

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## *Welcome Back!!*

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Hello Fireside Families,

Welcome to the first edition of the Fireside Focus for the 2024-2025 school year! For those of you new to our school, The Fireside Focus is our weekly school newsletter. We typically send this at the end of each week, recapping some of what's been happening at school and providing important information for families.

We're all looking forward to welcoming your kids back in September, everyone refreshed and ready to start another great year. We hope your summers were wonderful and relaxing, although we know many of you will be looking forward to getting back to a routine.

Our office staff and administrators are already back at school, getting things ready before teachers return next week. The school is officially open for in-person matters. Teachers and remaining support staff will be in to start setting up classrooms and conduct professional development starting on Tuesday.

You might already have noticed that construction has begun on three new modular classrooms on the south end of the building. While we were hoping these could be ready for the first day back to school, unfortunately we didn't receive them from Alberta Infrastructure in time to have them up by the end of summer. That said, our facilities team is hard at work, and we've been told they should be up and running by early to mid-October. It will make things a bit squishy, particularly for the three grade 7 & 8 classes who will be in those rooms, but in the meantime we've got alternate spaces for them until the rooms are open.

Lastly, we're really looking forward to Friday, August 30th, when we'll hold our Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast from 10:00 to 11:30 am. We'll be out on the back compound, flipping griddle cakes for you and the kids to enjoy while you pop into the school to see classrooms and say hello to teachers and staff. Classrooms might not be fully set up yet, but our teachers know that families will be popping in. We hope you can join us.

Please enjoy the last few days of summer, and we look forward to seeing the kids very soon!

Dave Banderk (Principal)

Kirsty Reade (Assistant Principal, Grades K-4)

Jason Ness (Assistant Principal, Grades 5-8)

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## *Upcoming Dates*

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- Wednesday, Aug 28 – Class assignments uploaded to PowerSchool
- Friday, Aug 30 – Pancake Breakfast 10:00 - 11:30 am

- Monday, Sept 2 – Labour Day (no school)
- Tuesday, Sept 3 – First Day of School for Students with Last Names Starting with A-L (staggered entry, M-Z stay home)
- Wednesday, Sept 4 – First Day of School for Students with Last Names Starting with M-Z (staggered entry, A-L stay home)
- Wednesday, Sept 11 – School Council (6:30 - 7:30 pm) and Friends of Fireside (7:30 - 8:30 pm) meetings
- Tuesday, Sept 17 – Terry Fox Run
- Friday, Sept 20 – Photo Day
- Friday, Sept 27 – Orange Shirt Day
- Monday, Sept 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no school)

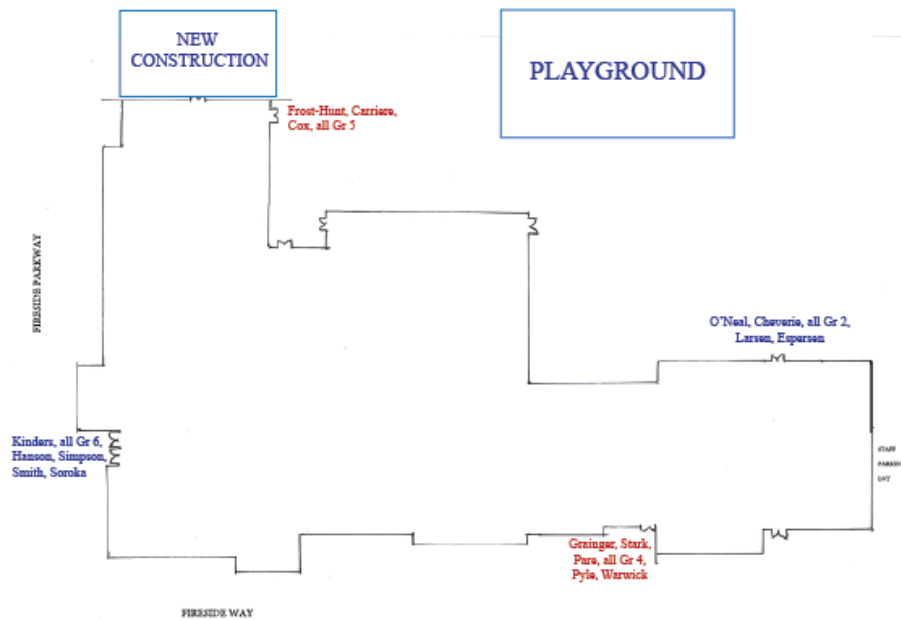
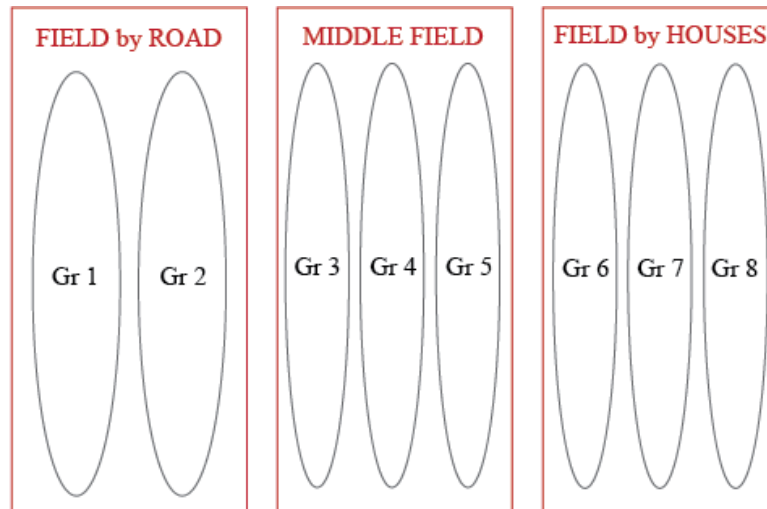
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### *Staggered Entry & Door Assignments*

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On your child's first school day (Tuesday, Sept 3 for A-L; Wednesday, Sept 6 for M-Z), all Grade 1-8 students will meet their teachers on the back fields. The map below shows where you can expect to find your child's home room teacher according to their grade. Each teacher will be holding up a sign with their grade and last name on it. Kindergarten families will meet their teachers at assigned times that will be arranged with your child's teacher.

For the remainder of the year, students will enter and exit the school from an assigned door. The map below shows which door your student will arrive and depart through each day.




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### *Drop-Off and Pickup*

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Arrival and dismissal times are very busy. Safety is our highest priority, and we'd like to ask drivers to keep their speed down and to watch carefully for pedestrians. We encourage those students who are able to walk, bike, and scooter to school to do so. Bike racks are at the front of the school for students to store them.

The "Kiss-and-Go" lane at the front of the school is meant for quick drop-offs and pickups. We ask that families not use the lane as a parking or waiting zone. We also would ask that vehicles not block the lane by stopping prior to the Accessible Space.

The parking lot at the back of the school is not meant to be a pickup or drop-off zone. Additionally, please bear in mind that we have a number of students who require the use of the accessible parking and loading zones. Please keep these spots available.

School bus parking zones on the north side of the building do not accommodate all buses. In the morning, buses are able to drop off and leave in those zones. At the end of day, buses load in two "waves," with one wave departing at 2:30, and the second departing as soon as they are loaded immediately afterwards (between 2:35 and 2:40). All students riding the bus at the end of day should gather in the bus lane regardless of the wave they load on. Once Rocky View Transportation has given us route information, we'll communicate with you and your children regarding their departure time.

We will again have crossing guard students controlling the crosswalk at the front corner of the school on Fireside Way. Please listen for their signals and help all our students stay safe this year.



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### *Absences*

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Please report all student absences using the Safe Arrival app or website. Information can be found on the RVS website [HERE](#).

If a student will be picked up for a scheduled appointment, it is helpful to have the student's teacher made aware in advance with a note or an email. Students must be signed out at the office and may only be signed out by parents, guardians, or adults that have been recorded in the student's PowerSchool information. Either of the two iPads at the front of the office can be used to sign a student out. Students must also be signed in if they are returning later in the day or are late for school. If there are individuals who are restricted from picking students up, please inform the office.

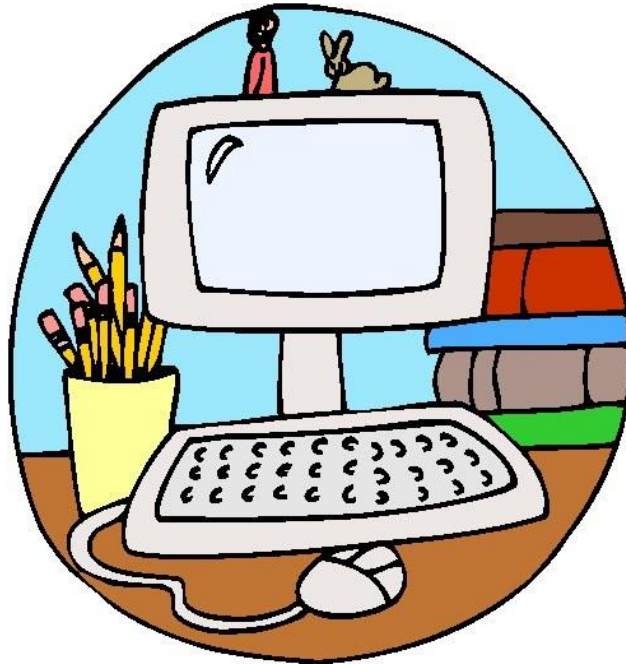
Students are not allowed to leave the school premises unless they are picked up by a guardian or have a signed permission form (grade 7 & 8 only) at the office. Permission forms are found in [School Engage](#) or

at the office. All students must check out at the office when they leave, regardless of the reason, and check in when they arrive outside regular bell times.

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### *School Cash, PowerSchool & School Engage*

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Each student has a [SchoolCash Online](#) account that is used to pay for any school fees, field trips, or other school-related expenses. We cannot accept cash or cheques at the office.

All parents have access to RVS' PowerSchool Parent Portal, where student class assignments and achievement are reported. More information can be found on [our website](#).

Permission and demographics forms can all be filled out in School Engage, which can be accessed from within PowerSchool or with [this link](#).

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### *Shoes, Boots and Clothes*

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We ask that students and families help to reduce the demand on our custodial staff by supplying students with two sets of footwear, one to keep at school for indoor use and a separate set of outdoor footwear that comes home each day. Classes will designate areas for students to store their outdoor shoes when they come in at the start of the day and from recess. This is especially important in muddy and wet seasons. Thank you for helping to keep our school beautiful!

We also encourage parents of younger students to keep an extra set of clothes in their children's bags in case of spills or accidents.

Lastly, please do our Lost & Found coordinators and your pocketbooks a service by finding a spot to write your child's name in/on commonly misplaced articles like jackets, sweaters, shoes, mittens, and hats. We donate or discard dozens (possibly even hundreds) of items from our Lost & Found racks every year.

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### *Allergy Awareness and Scent-Free Policy*

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Fireside School has a number of students and staff who are highly sensitive to certain allergens. We ask that all people entering the school please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, body sprays, scented products, and essential oils. We also ask that nuts and nut products also remain out of the school.

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### *2024 - 2025 Fireside School Staff Directory*

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ADMINISTRATION	
<i>Principal</i>	Dave Banderk
<i>Assistant Principal (K-4)</i>	Kirsty Reade
<i>Assistant Principal (5-8)</i>	Jason Ness
<i>Admin Asst II</i>	Selena Baker
<i>Admin Asst II</i>	Courtney Sheppard
<i>Admin Asst III (Finance)</i>	Diane Anderson
LEARNING SUPPORT STAFF	
<i>Education Assistants</i>	Marika Auclair Brenda Clancy Krisa Goss Judy Humphries Jacquie Rezeli Niki McLaren Darlene Neufeld Erika Rowden Lisa Wedderburn
<i>Child Development Advisor (K-4)</i>	Corey MacDouell
<i>Child Development Advisor (5-8)</i>	Kelsea Soch
<i>School Technologist</i>	Dennis Bettenson
<i>Learning Commons Facilitator</i>	Eric Lofthouse
TEACHING STAFF	
<i>Kindergarten</i>	Alison Humphrys Shaun Perratt
<i>Grade 1</i>	Erin Carriere Janet Cheverie Tanner Cox Kimberly Frost-Hunt
<i>Grade 1/2 Combined</i>	Julia O'Neal
<i>Grade 2</i>	Michelle Cooledge Heather Nusl Ryan Russell
TEACHING STAFF	
<i>Grade 3</i>	Katelyn Espersen Chelsea Grainger Lori Larsen Amy Stark
<i>Grade 3/4 Combined</i>	Layne Pare
<i>Grade 4</i>	Stephanie Colling Corinne Doll Tim Shaw Jaimie Waugh
<i>Grade 5</i>	Fuller, Jenn Chantel Lawrence Jeff McCormick Chantelle Pedersen
<i>Grade 6</i>	Kait Duong Marcia Loewen Melissa Nakesch Kimberly Slack
<i>Grade 7</i>	Leah Hanson Alanna Simpson Cole Whittleton
<i>Grade 7/8 Combined</i>	Linda Smith
<i>Grade 8</i>	Breanne Pyle Amanda Soroka Sarah Warwick
<i>Learning Support K-1</i>	Leslie Hall
<i>Learning Support Gr 2-5</i>	Jenny Dempster
<i>Learning Support Gr 6-8</i>	Sinéad Holzer
<i>Physical Education</i>	Melanie Hamilton
<i>Music &amp; Band</i>	Alex Chung Denver Petterson

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*School Bell Times*

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Grades 1-8



7:50 - 8:05 AM	Student Arrival and Entry
8:05 - 10:14 AM	Instructional Time
10:14 - 10:30 AM	Gr 1-4 Recess/Gr 5-8 Literacy
10:30 - 10:46 AM	Gr 5-8 Recess/Gr 1-4 Literacy
10:46 AM - 12:10 PM	Instructional Time
12:10 - 12:30 PM	Gr 5-8 Lunch (20 min)/Gr 1-4 Recess (20 min)
12:30 - 12:50 PM	Gr 1-4 Lunch (20 min)/Gr 5-8 Recess (20 min)
12:50 - 2:20 PM	Instructional Time
2:20 PM	Student Dismissal
2:30 PM	Bus Departure

### Kindergarten

AM Classes		PM Classes	
7:50 - 8:05 AM	Student Arrival and Entry	11:35 AM	Student Arrival and Entry
8:05 AM - 10:47 AM	Instructional Time	11:35 AM - 2:17 PM	Instructional Time
10:47 AM	Student Dismissal	2:17 PM	Student Dismissal
		2:30 PM	Bus departure

### Contact Us!

Fireside School

403.932.4868

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

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