

FIRESIDE FOCUS



Fireside Focus – Back to School Edition!

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2023-2024 Staff

Welcome Back!!

Hello Fireside Families,

Welcome to the first edition of the Fireside Focus for the 2023-2024 school year! The Fireside Focus is our weekly school newsletter, typically sent on Friday evenings throughout the school year.

We're excited to welcome back all the Hawks to our Fireside "nest" in a couple short weeks, both returning students and those new to our school as well. We hope everyone's summers were wonderful, with lots of warm weather and plenty of play time wherever you were. We're looking forward to another year of learning, growth, and connecting as we kick off the 2023-2024 school year

Our office and admin staff are back at it and working through all of our new registrations from over the summer (there were plenty!), getting classes and timetables ready to go. The school will officially be open on Monday the 28th, but we're answering phones in the meantime if there's anything in this newsletter that doesn't cover any questions you might have (403.932.4868).

Make sure you put a note in your calendars for Thursday, August 31st. We're welcoming families and community members back to school with a Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast from 9:00 to 10:00 am. The Calgary Stampede Pancake Breakfast folks will be out with their griddle, grilling up pancakes and pouring juices. The school will be open to visitors at that time. Teachers will be busily setting up their classrooms, but we've let them know that folks may be poking their heads into the school that morning. We hope you can make it to the breakfast!

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

Dave Banderk (Principal)

Tara Sly (Assistant Principal, Grades K-4)

Jason Ness (Assistant Principal, Grades 5-8)

Upcoming Dates

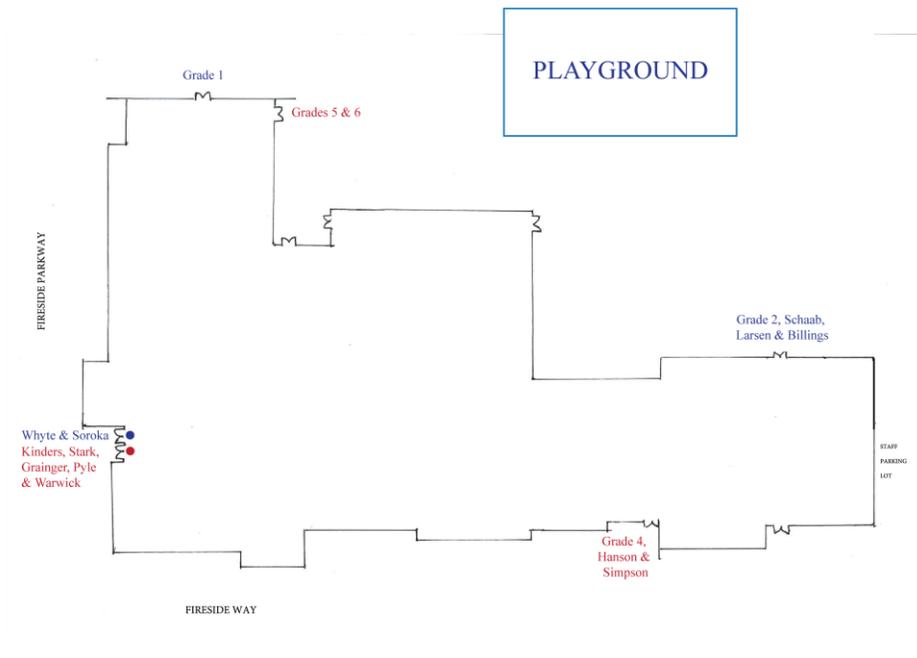
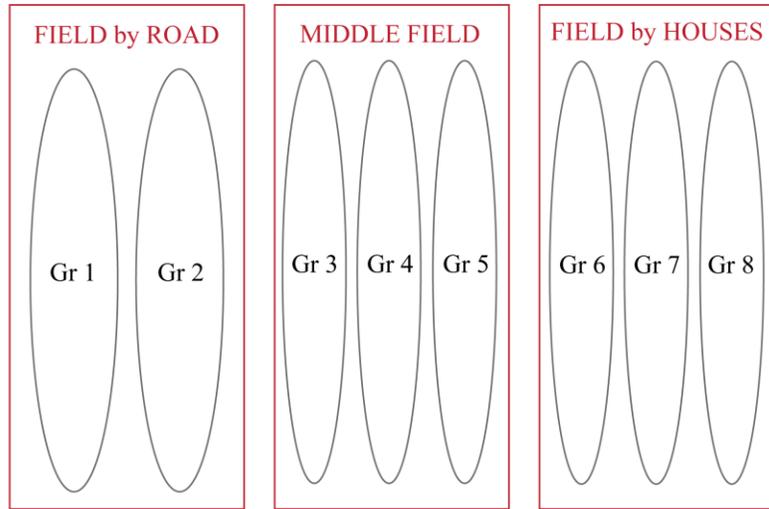
- Friday, Aug 25 – Class assignments uploaded to PowerSchool
- Monday, Aug 28 – School office open for in-person matters
- Thursday, Aug 31 – Pancake Breakfast 9:00 - 10:00am
- Monday, Sept 4 – Labour Day (no school)
- Tuesday, Sept 5 – First Day of School for Students with Last Names Starting with A-L (staggered entry, M-Z stay home)
- Wednesday, Sept 6 – First Day of School for Students with Last Names Starting with M-Z (staggered entry, A-L stay home)

- Wednesday, Sept 13 – School Council (7:00 - 8:00 pm) and Friends of Fireside (8:00 - 9:00 pm) meetings
- Friday, Sept 15 – Terry Fox Run
- Friday, Sept 22 – Photo Day
- Thursday, Sept 28 – Orange Shirt Day
- Friday, Sept 29 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no school)
- Friday, Oct 6 – Professional Development Day (no school)
- Monday, Oct 9 – Thanksgiving (no school)

Staggered Entry & Door Assignments

On your child's first school day (Tuesday, Sept 5 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 teacher according to their grade. Each teacher will be holding up a sign with their grade and last name on it. Kindergarten students will meet their teachers on the front steps of the school.

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.



School Bell Times

Grades 1-8

7:50 - 8:05 AM	Student Arrival and Entry
8:05 - 10:15 AM	Instructional Time
10:15 - 10:30 AM	Gr 1-4 Recess/Gr 5-8 Literacy
10:30 - 10:45 AM	Gr 5-8 Recess/Gr 1-4 Literacy
10:45 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	
7:50 - 8:05 AM	Student Arrival and Entry
8:05 AM - 10:47 AM	Instructional Time
10:47 AM	Student Dismissal
PM Classes	
11:35 AM	Student Arrival and Entry
11:35 AM - 2:17 PM	Instructional Time
2:17 PM	Student Dismissal
2:30 PM	Bus departure

Drop-Off and Pickup

Fireside continues to grow, and with almost 900 students enrolled this year, arrival and dismissal times will be very busy. Safety is our highest priority, and we'd like to ask drivers to keep their speed down and watch carefully for pedestrians. We encourage those students who are able to walk, bike, and scooter to school to do so, with bike racks at the front of the school for students to store their "rides."

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.

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 will no longer accommodate all the buses we need this year. Some buses will be picking students up on Fireside Parkway (along the field fence). Once Rocky View Transportation has given us route information, we'll communicate bus locations for end-of-day pickup.

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.



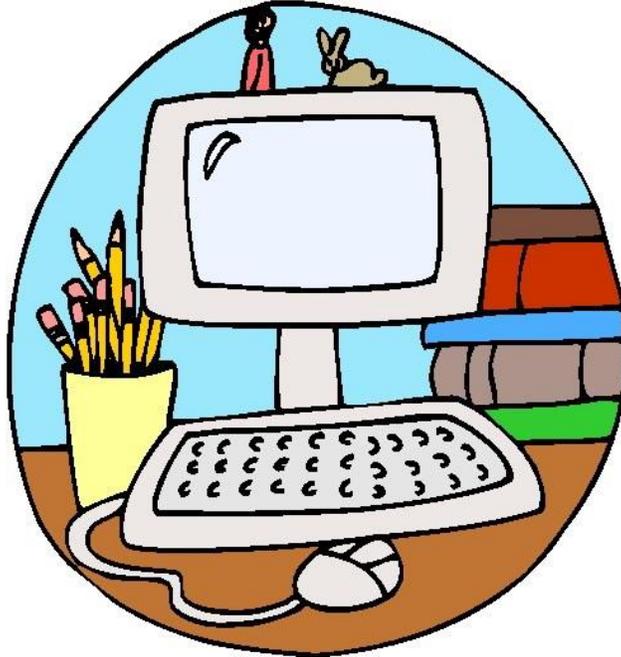
Absences

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 approved 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 in and out at the office.

School Cash, PowerSchool & School Engage



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](#).

[Shoes, Boots and Clothes](#)



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 separate 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.

Allergy Awareness and Scent-Free Policy

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.

- Please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, or scented products when coming into Fireside School.
- Please refrain from bringing perfumes, colognes, or scented products into our school and (most especially) from spraying them in the school.
- We are a Nut-Aware School; therefore, please do not bring products with nuts into the school.

We thank you for your attention to and respect for these health concerns and for helping us to keep everyone safe from allergic reactions this school year.

[2023 - 2024 Fireside School Staff Directory \(click\)](#)

Contact Us!

Fireside School

403.932.4868

fireside@rockyview.ab.ca

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