

Fort Vermilion Public School

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Fort Vermilion, AB
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(780) 927-3706

Visit our website at: <http://fvps.fvpsd.ab.ca/>

Find us on Facebook: Fort Vermilion Public School FVSD



2020-2021

We believe as a staff:

We believe that learning is a process engaged in by everyone in our schools. As a staff we are committed to continual school improvement that is based on the needs of our students and community. We believe that student achievement in all aspects of the educational experience is of paramount importance and that all members of our learning community have a shared responsibility for student success.

Facts About Fort Vermilion Public

School Colours: Green, White and Black
Grades: Kindergarten to grade 8

Team Name: Falcons
Population: Approximately 200 students

Attendance

Regular, prompt attendance is essential for student success. If your child will be absent or late, please phone the school at (780) 927-3706 to let us know.

Morning Announcements

After first period bell each morning, there are morning announcements. *O Canada* is played following announcements. At this time, ALL students, staff, parents, and other visitors are expected to stop and stand in respect of our national anthem.

Student Illness

If your child becomes ill at school, we will contact you as soon as possible. Please ensure we have an emergency contact number. If you have other methods of contact, please provide us with that information (i.e. email, texting number, work number, etc.) We require the student's health care number, in case we have to bring the child to the hospital. If your child is seriously injured or sick, an ambulance will be called. Parents may be responsible for the ambulance fees afterwards, if they don't have insurance. Children with the flu or other contagious infections must stay home.

Medical Information

Please inform the school of any medical problems or other concerns (such as allergies) your child may have. This information should be updated on a yearly basis.

Medication

It is FVSD policy that schools do not administer over-the-counter, non-prescribed medications (i.e. Aspirin or Tylenol). In order to safely administer prescribed medications, a signed form is required, detailing how the medications are to be administered, when it needs to be administered, the dosage, and possible side effects. A form is available at the office, and can be filled out when the medication is brought in.

Recess Breaks / Student Attire

ALL elementary students are required to go outside for recess. Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for the weather conditions. (i.e. windbreaker for fall, mitts, hat, parka for winter, splash pants for spring, etc.) Indoor recesses will be called when the temperature is colder than -20 Celcius, when it's -15 Celcius with a strong wind, and/or when it is raining, or other extreme weather conditions.

School Hours

To be determined. Buses arrive around 8:30am.

Visitors

For the safety and protection of our students, all visitors must report to the office, before going to classrooms or other areas of the school.

Hot Lunch

Fort Vermilion Public is fortunate to have a Hot Lunch Program for our students. Hot lunch is served each day as well as a snack at morning recess. A menu is sent home at the beginning of each school year. If your child does not wish to eat the selection for any given day, please send a lunch to school with them.

On rare occasions, meals may vary from the menu list. This would be if some food items were unavailable, or at the end of the school year when we use whatever food is left.

Parking, Passenger and Bus Zones

For the safety of students, please **do not park** in the bus zone.

Parent Advisory

Fort Vermilion Public Parent Advisory, meets on a regular basis, about 6 times per year. The main function is to act as an advisory group to school administration. Parents are encouraged to participate. Meetings are open to all.

School Bus Transportation

The Fort Vermilion School Division provides bus transportation for Fort Vermilion Public students. This service is subsidized by the government for rural students, living outside the hamlet boundary. Urban students residing less than 2.4 kilometers from the school

may obtain transportation on an existing bus route provided a fee is paid in advance to the school division. Bus fees for students within 2.4 km of the school are \$40 per student per month in grades K-6. The family rate is \$100 per month regardless of the number of children in your family. The bus driver is Joyce Belcourt.

Children are expected to behave appropriately when riding the bus. Children who repeatedly cause a disturbance while riding the bus will be assigned to a certain seat or may even have their bus privileges suspended.

If your child is to take a bus to a friend's or family member's house, the bus driver will require a note from you. The buses will not drop students off at stops that are not part of their regular routes. They can only take extra students if there is room that day.

Cold Weather Policy

Buses do not run when the temperature reaches -40 or colder. School is still open, and most students still attend. Bus cancellations are announced on local radio stations by 7:15am, on the school and division websites and on our Facebook page. If buses do not run in the morning, they do not run in the afternoon. If parents bring students to school on those days, they are also responsible for picking their children up at the end of the day (by 3:12pm). No extracurricular activities occur when busses do not run.

Personal Property

Please label your child's personal belongings and school supplies. Children may have similar/identical items and can mistakenly take the wrong item(s). We suggest that students leave toys, jewelry, electronics and other valuable items at home. **The school will not be held responsible for any lost personal items.**

Students are **NOT PERMITTED** to bring items such as the following, to school: guns, toy guns, bullets, knives, any other weapons, cigarettes, drugs, or any other illegal items.

Cell Phones, iPods, iPads, and other Devices

Students are allowed to bring electronic devices such as iPods, iPads, cell phones and other electronic devices to school, **however the school will not be held responsible for any lost items.** If the students bring such items, they must be used only at appropriate times and be secured in their lockers or backpacks. If your child has a cell phone, it must not be used in class for phone calls, texting or any other purpose. Any messages or contact between a parent and a student should go through the office. Students will be informed of messages in a prompt manner. **Any cell phones or other electronics used inappropriately or during class time will be held at the office until the end of the day.** If the misuse continues, it will be left at the office for the parent to pick up. Students are not permitted to record digital images of others at school (pictures or video).

FVSD Technology / Internet Use

FVSD Guidelines for All Technology Uses for Students

Introduction

FVSD supports the use of technology resources by students for educational purposes. This includes, but is not limited to, Internet access, e-mail accounts, installed software, personal file storage areas, personally owned digital devices and all hardware attached to the network.

Principles of Use

- FVSD owns all network resources and has the right to monitor use of the network resources.
- All network resources are for educational use and should be used appropriately.
- The use of Information Technology resources is subject to all guidelines and practices of both the division and the school related to technology, property or conduct. This includes division owned as well as personally owned digital devices.
- Students are expected to abide by the regulations and concepts of the Information Technology Protocols.

Conditions of Use

- Students should use Information Technology resources for appropriate and/or educational purposes only.
- Students will not publish on the Internet or in publicly viewed files personal, inappropriate or offensive information about themselves or others.
- Students will not engage in cyber bullying. This includes harassment or bullying of others by use of digital means.
- Students who discover material on the network that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable should report the material to a staff member.
- Students will only use their assigned login in the manner intended. This includes accessing only network resources assigned to their login. Students will not use another person's files or user name.
- Students are responsible for the security of access to their network resources. In particular, students will not tell others their password or leave a workstation where they are logged in. Students are responsible for problems caused by use of their login by other individuals.
- Students will not decrease the operation of and access to network resources through inappropriate use of network resources, malicious activity directed against network resources or through unauthorized use of any personal program/data files.
- **While involved in instruction, all students are prohibited from using personal technology devices** unless approved by the principal for instructional purposes and/or included in the student's instructional support plan (IPP).
- In high school, students are permitted to appropriately use personal devices before or after school and during recess and non-instructional blocks.
- The FVSD has provided all technology devices needed for learning.

Consequence

- Consequences of inappropriate technology use could include loss of network privileges, suspension, financial liability for damages, and/or disciplinary or legal action including suspension or expulsion.

Student Dress

All students are required to wear inside shoes and appropriate footwear for gym. (No black soles please). Students are expected to wear clothing that is appropriate for school. (i.e. No foul language or inappropriate graphics, appropriate body coverage is expected, etc.) Hats, caps, toques and hoods are not permitted to be worn inside the school, except on special occasions such as Halloween and Hat Day.

Lost and Found

There is a lost and found bin at the far east entrance. Please check these bins regularly for lost items. Lost and Found items will be displayed on tables during Parent Teacher Interviews. Any unclaimed articles will be properly disposed of twice per year: Christmas and June. Labeling your child's clothing will be helpful in recovering lost items.

School Fees

There are no school fees for students this year.

Student Agendas

Agendas will be distributed to all students in Grade K - 6. These planners allow students to take ownership of their learning by recording dates for homework assignments, quizzes and tests, as well as reminders of special class and school activities. Agendas are also an important communication tool between the parents and teacher.

Telephone Use

The telephones at school are for school business. Students who want to visit friends after school should make arrangements at home before arriving at school (a note from parents is required to present to the bus driver/teacher). Students will not be allowed to call home for permission to go to a friend's home.

Students will be allowed to call home in an emergency situation, if students are ill, or if permission is granted from the principal.

Assemblies

Month End Assemblies to be determined.

Report Card / Parent Teacher Interview Dates

The school year is divided into four terms. Parent Teacher Interviews will occur after Terms 1 and 2.

Term 1 Report Card sent home on November 27, 2020.

Term 1 Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held December 2 and 3, 2020

Term 2 Report Cards will be sent home on March 12, 2020.

Term 2 Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held March 17 and 18, 2021

Term 4 Report Cards will be sent home on June 18, 2021.

School Services and Programs

Religion Classes: Catholic Religion is available to all children wishing to enroll in religion classes. Other students will do literacy enrichment at that time.

Inclusive Education: An Inclusive Education Coach supports the classroom teachers. An inclusive approach is taken to meeting the needs of our students, differentiating instruction to support the various levels. Resource support is also provided.

Literacy Coach: A literacy coach will support students and teachers with strategies specific to literacy learning.

Connection Team: A Mental Health Therapist, Wellness Coaches and Family Wellness Coach work as a team to provide necessary mental health supports for students. They do targeted groups, one-on-one and whole group (universal) sessions.

Primary Literacy Support: Grade 1, 2, and 3 students have access to our Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) program. This program assists children in developing literacy skills in a small group setting.

Speech Language: In consultation with a Speech Language Pathologist, a speech-language Educational Assistant works with children assessed with speech-language needs.

Library: A half time librarian runs our library program.

Clubs, Committees, and Extra-curricular activities: A variety of clubs, activities and extra-curricular sports are available for Fort Public students. These include, but are not limited to: Citizenship Club, Student Council, Cross Country, Track and Field, Soccer, Basketball, Science Fair, Art Walk, Public Speaking, Choir, Robotics Club, Assembly Crew, Gym helpers, Intramurals, and more.

Behavior and Discipline

The students and staff of St. Mary's are dedicated to treating each other with respect, kindness and compassion in an inclusive environment. St. Mary's is a PAX school, where our goal is peace, productivity, health and happiness for everyone. The PAX program teaches children to visualize what they would see, hear, do, and feel in a peaceful classroom/environment. Teamwork is encouraged as students work in cooperative groups to make their world a better place. Self-regulation is developed over time.

SCHOOL-WIDE PAX VISION

St. Mary's Elementary School has guidelines to ensure consistency in a PAX Vision throughout the school, thus creating a peaceful environment. Each fall, students and staff together create a shared PAX vision. Students who do not meet PAX expectations are treated appropriately and fairly, following PAX guidelines. Each situation is assessed individually; the needs of the student(s) and the school will be addressed by any action that is taken. Common sense and professional evaluation of the situation will not be subjugated by strict adherence to rigid rules.

CLASSROOM VISION

Class Expectations: Each teacher will guide students in developing their PAX Vision, based on what they want to see, hear, feel and do to create a peaceful environment. Expectations will be based on PAX (what does a peaceful environment look like?) and will take a proactive approach, to help students develop self-regulation.

Informal Talk: The student will be reminded of the shared PAX vision, rather than reprimands and punishment. If necessary, a plan of action will be taken to avoid the problem in the future.

Office Referral: If there is a continuous pattern of misbehaviour or an acute incident, an Office Referral will take place (principal will be involved in helping correct the behaviour).

SCHOOL WIDE DISCIPLINARY ACTION

It is the expectation that all students will be respectful, responsible, and safe. They will be productive and try their best. Appropriate behavior will be positively reinforced with Tootles, from both staff and fellow students. Reminders will be given, if misbehaviour occurs and students will be given strategies as to how to turn misbehaviour into PAX. Occasionally, individual students may be reminded that they are misbehaving. Students will learn to recognize poor judgement and will be guided to formulate better choices.

If student conduct interferes with the well-being of the students, staff or school (i.e. physical abuse, bullying, theft, vandalism, etc.), an office referral may take place.

Major Offence Procedures

- 1) The principal will speak with student to identify inappropriate behaviour and discuss PAX.
- 2) The parent/guardian may be called, depending on situation.
- 3) If the same behavior occurs repeatedly, the principal will call the parent/guardian. A meeting may be arranged (student, teacher, and/or parent). A course of action will be determined, for the purpose of improving behaviour. A plan of action may be implemented and monitored.
- 4) At times an in-school or out of school suspension may be warranted. It is our goal to have students in class as much as possible, but there may be times when removing the student from the classroom setting will be beneficial, for the student and/or the class. In cases of violence against students and staff this measure will be seriously considered. The principal may suspend a student for a period not exceeding 5 consecutive days.
- 5) If deemed necessary, the principal may request expulsion as per the school board policy.