2025-2026

Whispering Ridge Community School

10320-149 Avenue, Grande Prairie, AB, T8X 0S1

Phone: 587-771-2180

WRCS WILDCATS

PARENT and STUDENT HANDBOOK

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I am extremely honored to be the principal of Whispering Ridge Community School. As a member of the school admin team since our school's opening, I feel a strong connection to the students, families, and staff in this amazing school family. Our school is one that has high expectations for ourselves and our students, while prioritizing the importance of a strong sense of belonging and meaningful connections. I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with our entire school community to ensure that we continue to flourish; setting and achieving collective goals that make us all better.

Mission Statement
At WRCS we strive to establish strong relationships, while working collaboratively to maintain high expectations for all.

Vision Statement
WRCS inspires every staff member and student to become the best version of themselves.

The following core values will guide us:

- ☐ Every child can succeed
- ☐ Health and wellness are foundational
- ☐ Embrace collaborative practices
- ☐ Respectful relationships are at the heart of every interaction
- ☐ Provide a safe environment for all
- ☐ Model and inspire our students to be risk-takers and passionate lifelong learners

Our families, staff, and students are truly one team working toward common goals. Therefore, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns.

Phone (587)771-2180
E-mail abbystilwell@pwpsd.ca

Sincerely,
Mrs. Abby Stilwell (B.Ed, M.A.)
Principal
Whispering Ridge Community School

STAFF LIST

Assignment	Staff
Principal	Abby Stilwell
Assistant Principal	Hilary Schmidt
Assistant Principal	Peter Bailey
Kindergarten	Krysten Rohatinsky
Grade 1	Madysen Jones
Grade 1	Katharyn Dallaire
Grade 1	April Brown
Grade 2	Debra Paquin
Grade 2	Sophia Breitkreuz
Grade 2	Cortney Warr
Grade 3	Ashlee Scheller
Grade 3	Carley Baxter
Grade 3	Jenny Keddie
Grade 4	Anna Tomke
Grade 4	Alyssa Harrison
Grade 4	Kaylin Green
Grade 5	Kaitlyn Murphy
Grade 5	Sarah McDonald
Grade 5	Janelle Schmidt
Grade 6	Leann Miller
Grade 6	Heather Lawrance
Grade 6	Shannon Kunz
Grade 7	Evan Senger
Grade 7	Jessica Fisher
Grade 7	Lorne Kimble
Grade 8	Darren Clarkson
Grade 8	Emmerson Loewen
Physical Education	Harley Mckechnie
Physical Education	Sarah Herman
Inclusive Education	Miranda Kaytor
Music/Empower Reading & Band	Sharon Goebel

Support Staff

Mandy Biegel	Educational Assistant
Shelley Campbell	Educational Assistant (speech)
Lena Cassidy	Educational Assistant
Marjorie Clayton	Educational Assistant
Tanya Garnish	Educational Assistant
Margit Gerber	Educational Assistant
Tracy Gerwatoski	Educational Assistant
Leslie Giesbrecht	Educational Assistant
Crystal Hounsell	Educational Assistant
Colton Howrish	Educational Assistant
Reanne Kannenberg	Educational Assistant
Nikki Martin	Educational Assistant
Lindsey Smiley	Educational Assistant
Tanya Singer	Educational Assistant
Kathy Schneider	Educational Assistant
Nikki Davy	Non-Certificated Classroom Supervisor
Gabrielle Frattini (FCSS)	Counsellor

PARENT/GUARDIAN ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents and guardians are the child's first teacher and play an integral role in their education. We value all parents' input and encourage our parents to take an active role in our school. In accordance with the Education Act parents are reminded of the following:

Section 32

A parent has the prior right to choose the kind education that shall be provided to the parent's child, and as a partner in education, has the responsibility to

a) act as the primary guide and decision-maker with respect to the child's education,
b) take an active role in the child's educational success, including assisting the child in complying with section 31,
c) ensure that the child attends school regularly,
d) ensure that the parent's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment,
e) co-operate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of supports and services to the child,
f) encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals,other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school, and
g) engage in the child's school community.

When a disagreement between a parent and the school arises, parents are reminded that their conduct will need to comply with the Education Act. We strive for positive relationships with all our parents and we look forward to working with you.

WRCS School Calendar

WRCS School Calendar 2025-2026

August

26th	Open House BBQ (5pm - 7pm)
28th	First Day of Classes

September

1st	No School (Holiday)
8th	Early Out
19th	CSW (no school)
29-30th	No School (Holiday)

October

6th	Early Out
10th	CSW (no school)
13th	No School (Holiday)
22-23rd	Parent Teacher Interviews
24th	CSW (no school)

November

3rd	Early Out
7th	CSW (no school)
10-11th	No School (Holiday)
21st	No School (PD Day)
28th	Term 1 Report Cards

December

1st	Early Out
5th	CSW (no school)
20th	First Day of Christmas Break

January

4th	Last day of Christmas Break
5th	Early Out
16th	CSW (no school)
30th	No School (PD Day)

February

2nd	Early Out
6th	CSW (no school)
13th	CSW (no school)
16th	No School (Holiday)

March

2nd	Early Out
5-6th	No School (Teachers' Convention)
13th	Term 2 Report Cards
19th	Parent Teacher Interviews
20th	No School (PD Day)

April

3rd	First Day of Spring Break
12th	Last Day of Spring Break
13th	Early Out
24th	CSW (no school)

May

1st	CSW (no school)
4th	Early Out
18th	No School (Holiday)
22nd	No School (PD Day)
29th	CSW (no school)

June

1st	Early Out
12th	CSW (no school)
23rd	Term 3 Report Cards
23rd	Final Day of Classes

Join us on the 4th Wednesday of each month!

~ School 20th il Meetings 5:45pm in the library

~ Participarent Meetings 7pm in the staff room

School Phone Number
587-771-2180

Whispering Ridge Community School
10320-149 Avenue
Grande Prairie, AB T8X 0S1

Whispering Ridge Participarent Society

WRCS Bell Schedules 2025-2026

Regular School Day | **Early Dismissal School Day**

Time	Block	Duration	Time	Block	Duration
8:15-8:25	Morning Supervision	10	8:15-8:25	Morning Supervision	10
8:25-9:05	1	40	8:25-9:05	1	40
9:05-9:45	2	40	9:05-9:45	2	40
9:45-10:25	3	40	9:45-10:25	3	40
10:25-11:05	4	40	10:25-11:05	4	40
11:05-11:45	5	40	11:05-11:40	5	35
11:45 - 12: 05	LUNCH	20	11:40 - 12: 00	LUNCH	20
12:05-12:45	6	40	12:00-12:35	6	35
12:45 - 1:25	7	40	12:35 - 1:10	7	35
1:25-2:05	8	40	1:10-1:45	8	35
2:05-2:45	9	40	1:45-2:20	9	35
2:45-3:25	10	40	2:20-2:55	10	35
3:25-3:35	After School Supervision	10	2:55-3:05	After School Supervision	10

Recess Schedule

Block/Time	Recess	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:25-9:05					
9:05 - 9:25 9:25 - 9:45	Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Kindergarten
9:45 - 10:05 10:05 - 10:25	Grade 1-3 Grade 4-6	Grade 1-3 Grade 4-6	Grade 1-3 Grade 4-6	Grade 1-3 Grade 4-6	Grade 1-3 Grade 4-6
10:25 - 10:45 10:45 - 11:05	Grade 7/8	Grade 7/8	Grade 7/8	Grade 7/8	Grade 7/8
11:05 - 11:25 11:25 - 11:45					
LUNCH					
12:05 - 12:25 12:25 - 12:45	Grade 1-3	Grade 1-3	Grade 1-3	Grade 1-3	Grade 1-3
12:45 - 1:05 1:05 - 1:25	Grade 4-6 Grade 7-8	Grade 4-6 Grade 7-8	Grade 4-6 Grade 7-8	Grade 4-6 Grade 7-8	Grade 4-6 Grade 7-8
1:25 - 1:45 1:45 - 2:05	Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Kindergarten
2:05 - 2:25 2:25 - 2:45					
2:45 - 3:15 3:15-3:25					

GUEST POLICY

We encourage parents to be an active part of our school. When guests arrive at the school, we kindly ask that they please check in at the office. If you are interested in volunteering or helping within our school, please reach out to your child's teacher or admin.

Note: Since our volunteers play an important role in directly supervising students and supporting activities, we kindly ask that additional children not accompany you when volunteering. In some cases, this also presents challenges related to insurance. We truly appreciate your understanding and are grateful for your time and commitment to supporting our school.

Given our high population of students, parents are asked to please wait outside the building at the beginning and end of each school day. Our hallways are very crowded with students (and staff), and this helps us to mitigate congestion while also ensuring we know who is in our building at any given time during the day.

EARLY ARRIVAL AND PICK UP

All school doors will open at 8:15 am. For students arriving between 8:15am and 8:25am, we welcome students to join us by entering through their assigned door. There are supervisors assigned starting at 8:15 am each morning, and again at the end of the day (at the bus stop, behind the school, and at doors) until 3:30pm. Supervision before and after these hours are the parents' responsibility. Our main doors remain unlocked all day for late arrivals and early pick up.

Please be aware that supervision of the playground is not provided before or after school hours. Our expectation is that all students go home after school and check in with their families before playing on the playground.

Picking your child up before the end of the day is discouraged, as it interrupts the learning for all students, but if necessary, please contact the office to sign your child out. If your child normally rides the school bus, please don't forget to notify the bus driver that your child will not be on the afternoon route.

LUNCH

All students have a common lunch break from 11:45 am - 12:05 pm.

A few things to note include:

- Students are discouraged from sharing food.
- Food provided by the family will be stored with the student's belongings.
- All students are encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating.

- Please try to send food in containers/packages that your child can open themselves (adults will assist when necessary and having items that can be opened independently will reduce the amount of contact that others have with your child's lunch items).
- Each classroom has a microwave for heating up lunches (teachers may have routines to help mitigate how many children are requiring to use the microwave each day).
- We are a closed campus and students are not permitted to be going home at lunch.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

- Students and their families are able to pre-purchase lunches through Munch-a-Lunch
- All orders are completed online, and must be submitted prior to 9am
- Lunches are delivered directly to the students classrooms
- The link to order is available on our school website and will also be shared on our school Facebook page https://munchalunch.com/schools/whisperingridge/

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

For safety and protection, students are not permitted to leave the school grounds without permission. Students leaving school grounds during the day must be signed out by a parent or guardian in the office.

FIELD TRIPS

Throughout the year, students will be given opportunities to expand their learning outside of the school and participate in field trips. All field trips will require written permission from the parents. These opportunities are an important part of the school and learning experiences for our students, and school fundraising helps us to ensure these special events can happen.

COMPRESSED SCHOOL WEEK (CSW)

Whispering Ridge Community School is a transfer location for students attending Peace Wapiti Academy. As a result WRCS students have longer school days than required by Alberta Education. In lieu of the extra time spent in the class, students will receive additional Fridays off. These are noted as Compressed School Weeks (noted as CSW in our school calendar).

ATTENDANCE POLICY

We encourage our families to strive for regular and punctual attendance. Please contact the office or your child's teacher if your child is going to be away.

SAFE ARRIVAL

With our safe arrival program, a staff member will contact you when your child is absent and the *school has not been contacted prior*. If your child will be absent, please call to notify us at 587-771-2180 or e-mail their homeroom teacher. **The Safe Arrival Program will not operate any days the buses do not operate due to the large number of excused absences. If you are sending your child and would like to ensure they arrived safely, please call the school.**

ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS

Parents will be contacted if their child indicates they are not feeling well at school or have a minor injury. In cases of serious accidents, where a doctor is urgently required, an ambulance may be called. Parents should be aware they may be responsible for any initial ambulance charges; however these can be recovered through our district insurance.

STUDENT INSURANCE

Peace Wapiti School Division has a Student Accident Insurance Program that protects students and their families from some of the high costs of injury from accidents. The Student Accident Insurance program provides coverage for medical, dental, disability and accidental death and dismemberment insurance on behalf of students participating in any school activities, including student transportation and school sanctioned events and field trips. All students are covered under the Division plan.

Parents/Guardians may wish to purchase additional coverage (summertime, weekend and other non-school days) at their own cost; information packages are available at the schools. For all claims, please contact your school for a claim form.

KINDERGARTEN

Whispering Ridge Community School will be offering two kindergarten programs during the 2025-2026 school year. One kindergarten class will be in operation every Tuesday/Thursday. The other Kindergarten class will be in operation on a Monday/Wednesday cycle. Each class will offer full day programming and is an integral part of our school program. Each program has the same amount of days/program hours.

TELEPHONE

Students will be permitted to use the phone in their respective homerooms with teachers permission during their breaks and otherwise for emergencies.

Due to the extremely busy time at the end of the day, any message received after 3:00pm is not guaranteed to reach your child, so please try to call ahead if your child needs to receive a message.

CELL PHONES

Students are not permitted to use their cell phones during the school day, and they should remain safely locked in their lockers with notifications silenced. We have 1:1 technology and provide all students in grades 4-8 a chromebook; therefore, cell phones are not a necessary component of the educational environment. This also aligns with the Ministerial Order #014/2024 (linked below).

**Exceptions will be made for students requiring a device for medical purposes.*

Progression of discipline for non-compliance:

- If a student has their phone on their person, or is using it during the school day, it will be turned into the office and the student may collect it at the end of the school day.
- In the event that this becomes an ongoing issue, parents will be contacted to determine a reasonable solution moving forward.

Please refrain from calling or texting your children during the school day. If there is an urgent issue please contact our office directly.

Airpods and other personal devices should also be stored safely in student lockers (with their cell phones) during the school day. If students require headphones to complete work on their Chromebooks, a wired set of headphones is preferred. Please ensure your child has a pair of functional headphones at school.

Ministerial Order 2024 014 Government of Alberta

Social media platforms will not be accessible on Peace Wapiti Public School Division networks.

Thank you for your kind cooperation in helping us build and maintain a distraction-free and engaging educational space for all students. We appreciate your continued support.

BIKES, SCOOTERS, ROLLERBLADES, ETC.

Many students may come to school using this type of equipment, and for their own safety, students who do bring such items to school must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Walk bikes and scooters to the bike rack, lock them up and leave them there until you go home.
- Roller blades should be removed and shoes/boots put on once the student is on school property.
- Students are responsible to ensure their possessions are locked up in a safe manner.
- Wear a helmet.

NEWSLETTERS

In an effort to help keep you informed of the many events and happenings in the school, we will be emailing home a monthly digital newsletter. You can sign up for this on our school website or view it there as well. The calendar on our website is a great place to check for upcoming dates and events. Below is our school website, if you have not already, please sign up for our Newsletter. http://www.pwsd76.ab.ca/schools/wrcs

FACEBOOK PAGE

A great way to access school information, view photos, and stay current with various events happening at WRCS is to follow our school Facebook page. A weekly post is made each Monday to highlight events upcoming for the week, as well as many other posts celebrating events and activities happening in and around school. PLEASE FOLLOW US!

https://www.facebook.com/whisperingridgecommunityschool/

SCHOOL FEES

In order to ensure we can continue to offer enriching learning experiences and optimal programming for our students, our school utilizes some school fees. School fees are set and approved in consultation with our school council and Peace Wapiti Public School Division. Additional information about these fees can be found using the link below:

WRCS 2025-2026 School Fees

HOMEWORK POLICY

Education is a lifelong process which extends beyond the school, and we aim to honour the learning that occurs in the home and within the community. Therefore, we believe in prioritizing our time at school to focus on academic endeavors, while ensuring our students have adequate time outside of school to develop additional skill sets.

Students who are bringing home school work may not have used their time wisely during the school day, or would just like a little extra time to complete a task. If your child is consistently bringing school work home, you may wish to contact their teacher to clarify how your child is using their time at school and/or if they are understanding the concepts being taught. We want to work with our families to best support students and ensure family time at home is valued.

There is substantial evidence to support the importance of daily reading, and we would encourage all of our families to be dedicating some time each evening to read with their child(ren). Additionally, playing games or cards is another fun way to reinforce skills being taught in school while at the same time ensuring quality family time at home.

LOCKERS

School locks are assigned to students at the beginning of the school, and students are responsible for their lock (gr 5-8) or carabineer (gr 1-4), until the end of the school year when it is to be returned to the main office. Only school-issued locks are permitted. Students and parents should be aware that school lockers are the property of the school and may be opened by administration at any time. Lockers are not one hundred percent secure and we recommend that valuables are best left at home. Due to increased numbers, some classrooms will have cubbies in place of lockers.

MEDICATION

Staff members are not to administer medication of any kind to students unless in an emergency situation (i.e. an epi pen). Parents/guardians should ensure the school is aware if their child has any allergies or medical needs, and if medication may be required, there is a form for families to complete. Please contact the office to obtain a copy of this form.

DISCIPLINE & CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS

Students are responsible for their behavior. We expect each of our students to treat others with respect at all times. When and if a student misbehaves we ask that parents work with the school to resolve the issue. Parents are reminded that they are to comply with the school code of conduct and treat all staff with respect.

During the formative years, children have varying amounts of internal self-direction. As adults it is a part of our responsibility to help them grow in this capacity. At WRCS, we aim to help students learn to take accountability for their choices. Everyone makes mistakes, and it is important to allow students to learn from those mistakes. By implementing logical and consistent consequences, and providing students with opportunities to become responsible and caring members of the community, students will learn about their behavior, their choices, and their impact on others.

In some cases, discipline in the form of a more severe consequence may be a necessary next step. For example, where behavior is very serious or repetitive in nature, a suspension from school or the bus may be the consequence.

Section 31 of the *Education Act* states:

A student, as a partner in education, has the responsibility to:

a) attend school regularly and punctually;
b) be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education;
c) ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging;

d) respect the rights of others in the school;
e) refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether of not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means;
f) comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board;
g) co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services;
h) be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct, and positively contribute to the student's school and community.

BULLYING

It is important to have a clear understanding of what bullying is and is not. Whispering Ridge Community School has adopted the following statement, proposed by Alberta Education:

> "Bullying" means repeated and hostile or demeaning behavior by a student where the behavior is intended by the student to cause harm, fear or distress to another individual in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to the individual's reputation. - Alberta Education, 2012

<u>Generally, bullying exhibits three key components:</u>

- Mean, hurtful, and unfair treatment that is repetitive or ongoing.
- An imbalance of power where the victim feels he/she cannot defend him/herself.
- An unequal emotional response to ongoing interactions.

Bullying is not a normal part of growing up and it does not build character. It is a learned behavior that hurts everyone, those who get bullied, those doing the bullying, and those who watch it. This damages our schools, our communities and our society at large. Bullying is a relationship problem. It is the assertion of interpersonal power through aggression.

Issues with bullying require parents and the school to work together. Bullying is a learned behavior and requires all parties to be actively involved to find solutions. Please ensure any incidents involving bullying are reported to the school (please review the definition above).

Kinde$$ Counts

A parent (who wishes to remain anonymous) has donated a large sum of cash and would like it to go towards promoting, acknowledging, and rewarding kindness. So we have created a monthly tradition here at WRCS, and that is "Kindne$$ Counts"! Each month staff nominate a

student who has been exceptionally kind. Then, we do a random draw to select the winner, who will receive $50 in cold, hard cash! The nominations (names and rationale for the nomination) are published each month on our school Facebook page to celebrate and honour kindness.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Student appearance has an important effect on their attitudes toward themselves, other students, and the school. While it is recognized that choice of attire is a form of expression and subject to fashion or current trends, we ask that students choose clothing that is conducive of learning.

The dress code is aimed at establishing and maintaining reasonable standards of dress for all school activities. Good taste and judgment in the selection of clothing worn to school is expected. We believe that our school is a place of learning and we expect all students and staff should dress appropriately.

- Clothing should not compromise modesty (undergarments should remain covered).
- Please be respectful with the use of cologne, perfume, body spray and deodorant, as any people are sensitive/allergic to these smells.
- Obscenity and violence are not tolerated in our school; therefore, clothing and personal belongings with obscene sayings are not acceptable. For example: drug paraphernalia/sayings, violent scenes or inappropriate messages, beer/alcohol logos, sexual or drug connotation, disrespectful messages.
- Shoes must be worn at all times in case of an evacuation drill.
- Hats are permitted; however, students need to remove their hat at the request of an adult supervisor, as well as when the national anthem is playing.

**Please note: teachers reserve the right to establish a no hat policy in their classrooms.*

Students who do not comply with the dress code will be asked to change their clothing or wait while a parent brings a change of clothing. Staff may determine which articles of clothing contravene our dress code.

STUDENT RECORDS & UPDATING

In order to maintain efficient communication, please keep the school office informed of any changes to student information. You can do this by completing your Returning Student Demographics form online each year. This will update information such as emergency contacts, phone or cell numbers, work numbers of parent(s)/guardian(s), addresses and pertinent medical information. Any changes through the year can be brought to the office as well.

REPORT CARDS & PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Progress reports will be issued to students three times throughout the year. In addition, we will have two formal Parent Teacher Interview (PTI) nights (dates located in our calendar). Although parent-teacher conference dates are pre-scheduled, parental contact is encouraged whenever there are concerns regarding the welfare and/or progress of the child. Please call the school and arrange a mutually convenient time for a conversation. Strong communication is vital to student success and a priority for our school.

RETENTION

Generally, grade retention is not advisable. There is a great deal of research to suggest that it does more harm than good, and there is a direct correlation between grade retention and high school dropout rates. Under rare circumstances, grade retention is recommended. Criteria used in making placement decisions may include:

- Social/emotional readiness
- Age and maturity of the child
- Parental choice

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Throughout the year, Whispering Ridge Community School will practice various emergent drills to ensure all occupants are familiar with certain procedures in the event of an actual emergency. During this time, we will have students mustering with their homeroom class outside in our bus lane if evacuated. All staff have a detailed map of where to meet and do attendance with their students.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Through continuous evaluation, we aim to ensure that programs are modified or adapted as required to ensure that all students are receiving access to high quality educational programs that meet their needs.

"Inclusion is not just about learners with special needs. It is an attitude and approach that embraces diversity and learner differences and promotes equal opportunities for all learners in Alberta. Alberta's education system is built on a values-based approach to accepting responsibility for all children and students." Alberta Education

Our WRCS Inclusive Education Coordinator/Counselor is Miranda Kaytor and she can be reached via phone 587-771-2180 or email mirandakaytor@pwpsd.ca

COUNSELING

Counseling services are available to students in kindergarten through grade 8. We offer an in-school part-time counselor, and we also can access several outside agencies to provide varying degrees of support dependent on student need. Support can be offered individually or in group settings, and all referrals will be triaged based on urgency and space available at each tiered level of support. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher with any concerns. They will work with admin and Miss Kaytor to ensure that we can provide your child with the right level of support.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & WELLNESS

Physical Education & Wellness instruction will continue for all grade levels. We are fortunate to have PE specialists Mr. Harley McKechnie, Mrs. Sarah Herman, Mr. Lorne Kimble, and Mrs. Kaylin Green providing this programming for our students. The focus of physical education and wellness is to encourage and promote students who are physically active for life.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

School personnel cannot accept responsibility for the personal property of students. Please identify all outerwear, footwear, and school supplies with your child's full name. We encourage our older students to keep a lock on their lockers where possible.

Students are strongly discouraged from bringing expensive personal property such as personal music players and video games. The school is not financially responsible for lost or stolen items.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

Please be aware that Whisper Ridge Community School (with the support of our School Council) has surveillance cameras on site.

TECHNOLOGY

At our school, we believe that technology can be a powerful tool to enhance learning, enabling students to obtain information and to collaborate with others across the school, the district, and the world in purposeful educational activities. We expect all students to model the qualities of good digital citizenship by following standards of acceptable use and ethical practices when using either school-owned technology.

All students at this school will have access to technology (Chromebooks, iPads, and/or Laptops). Please note, **you are NOT required to purchase a device for your child.** During instructional time, neither personal nor school owned devices (including Smartphones) should be used for personal reasons (i.e. accessing social media).

Ultimately, the use of any electronic device in the classrooms and the school will be at the discretion of the teacher. Students who do not follow the school's policies may have their device confiscated. In this case, parents may be required to pick up the device from the office.

INTERNET ACCESS

All students are given the opportunity to access information via our school wifi. Failure to comply with the terms stated on the FOIP Information and Internet Consent Form, which is part of the new student registration package and sent home with the returning students at the beginning of each year, may result in limited or a complete ban of this privilege.

COLD WEATHER POLICY

In the interests of student safety, parents/guardians are to ensure that all students during the winter months are appropriately attired, including proper footwear, headgear and gloves. In the case of inclement weather our school follows division policy regarding school closure. This means that normally, even though buses may not run because of weather conditions, the school remains open. If buses do not run, parents have the option of transporting their children to school. Please note that if buses do not operate in the morning it is the parents' responsibility to pick up their children in the afternoon. Please see Board Policy EEAF for specific details.

The school will not have outdoor recesses when the weather is colder than **-23 Celsius;** however, wind chill will also be considered and on such days, the outdoor recesses could be shortened or not permitted at all.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

To respond to an emergency, we may have to send students home at an earlier time. In such a situation, parents of students who are in kindergarten to grade 8 will be contacted and we will use our PWPSD media outlets to get this message to parents as quickly as possible.

BUS LANES, PARKING AND PICKUP

Please be aware that the area in front of the school is incredibly busy during drop off (8:15 am – 8:25 am) and pick up (3:25 pm – 3:30 pm). We would like to remind parents not to use the bus lane, and to be incredibly careful watching for children and other people walking in the parking lot. Please pull over and drop your child(ren) off along the sidewalk and not in the traffic flow. The County of GP has recently widened the street to the south of our school and added additional sidewalks. We encourage families (especially those with older children) to be utilizing these new sidewalks for drop off and pick up, in order to reduce the amount of traffic coming into our parking lot.

LICE

Lice can sometimes be a problem. The best prevention is a weekly check by parents. Our school office can provide you with information. Alberta Health Services policy is that if children have live lice they will be sent home. Once students have been treated they may return to school, and we will have a staff member do an additional check to ensure the child is free from lice and nits.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

All parents are encouraged to take part in our School Council. The function of this body is to help provide effective communication between parents and staff to ensure the best education for all our children. This is the forum for you to provide input regarding the direction our school should be taking. The first meeting for the school year will be held in conjunction with our Open House BBQ & Meet the Teacher event on August 26th from 5-7pm.

PARTICIPARENT

Our school is fortunate to have an amazing Participarent group who works closely with the school to raise funds which directly support our students. They have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in the past, which allowed our school to open with a beautiful playground! This group meets monthly and we invite all families to join us.

BUS CONDUCT

Students riding the bus are responsible to the bus driver and the school staff for their behavior. We have the same behavior expectations for students on the bus as we do for any student in or around the school. Safety is paramount on our buses and repeated misbehavior will not be tolerated. Bus drivers will report student misconduct to the school staff. Appropriate discipline measures will be taken and may include suspension from the bus.

BUS RIDING BASICS

A complete set of rules is available from the bus driver; however, here are a few of the important ones:

1. The driver is in full charge of the school bus at all times.

2. The driver will designate the seat which the student shall occupy and riders shall remain seated when the bus is in motion.

3. The drivers may report any misconduct to the principal of the school. Parents will be notified if the misconduct continues and students may be required to make other travel arrangements.

4. Students wishing to travel on other buses other than their own after school must complete a Short Term Rider Request Form (providing 48hrs notice). The form is to be completed by parents and sent to PWPSD transportation department, or given to the bus driver or school. Forms are available online or at the main office. Please continue to notify the school of different travel arrangements.

Thank you for your cooperation.

ASSESSMENT POLICY & POWERSCHOOL

WRCS Assessment Philosophy

At Whispering Ridge Community School we believe that assessment is an integral part of the learning process. That formative assessment should serve as a catalyst for learning, while summative assessment should provide an accurate measure of student success related to clearly identified curricular outcomes. *"When teachers use assessment in a way that aligns with its intended purpose, students will learn while engaging in the process."* Garnet Hillman & Mandy Stalets

Purpose of Assessment

Assessment does two very important things:

1. Informs teachers about their students' current level of understanding, which then guides their planning moving forward.
2. Communicates success as well as areas for continued growth and improvement directly related to curriculum.

Types of Assessment

Formative Assessment
This type of assessment helps students understand the progression of their learning and helps guide the teacher's instruction. Formative assessment is used **for** and **as** learning; referring to activities and learning tasks that provide specific and descriptive feedback which will guide students to improve.

Summative Assessment
Summative assessment is designed to provide information to be used by teachers in making judgments about a student's achievement. It is a measure **of** learning. This type of assessment is a summary of the learning that has taken place within the classroom and verifies the progress the student has made.

WHO DO I TALK TO WITH CONCERNS?

If it happens that you find conflict with something related to your child's educational programming at school, your first step is to talk to the teacher to try to resolve the concern together. If that fails, your next step is to talk to the principal.

Together with the teacher and school administration, you should be able to resolve most issues that affect your child at school. For more information on channels of communication, please visit http://www.pwsd76.ab.ca/Resources/ParentResources/Documents/healthy_interactions.pdf where you will find PWPSD's position on conflict resolution.