

ontrack

advanced
registration bulletin



Digital natives - the new generation



Today's students often are referred to as 'Digital Natives', who literally take in the world via computing devices such as cellular phones, laptops, iPads and handheld games they take everywhere. Even toddlers have a vivacious appetite to surf websites such as Disney's Playhouse at <http://tv.disney.go.com/playhouse> where they have fun interacting with their favorite Disney characters like Pooh, Mickey, Little Einsteins, and more! Digital Natives perceive technology as their friend. They rely on it to study, play, relax, collaborate and communicate, and they enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to engage in live chats, instant messaging, smart mobs, blogs, wikis, moodling, and more.

The challenge facing educators is to identify learning strategies that are appropriate for Digital Natives, recognizing the different ways they process information and develop learning tools that maximize the potential of their unique cognitive approach.

Over the last three years, Rocky View Schools has aggressively stepped up to meet this challenge. In addition to being attentive to developing students' basic literacy skills, we are changing our approach to teaching and learning to ensure students are

able to successfully navigate in this technically-literate society by becoming critical, creative and complex thinkers, with the ability to manage knowledge, sustain the planet, and thrive in a global economy.

From January 24, 2011 onward, RVS invites parents to learn more about our system and to pre-register their child at his/her neighbourhood school. Although registration is ongoing up to the first day of school, pre-registration helps parents and children make an informed choice. RVS' January 2011 edition of Ontrack is dedicated to providing information about the jurisdiction: our vision, our progress in building 21st Century learning environments, and the multitude of services and programs we provide students and families. We also have provided a complete listing of school orientation sessions, and other special events planned to welcome our new and returning students!



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20th Century vs 21st Century classrooms

What is the primary difference between today's education system and that of Generation X - those born in the 60s, 70s and early 80s?

Most adults look back fondly on their Kindergarten to Grade 12 experience. In fact, some attribute that journey to what they are today - successful, contributing citizens. While it is natural for parents to want their children to experience the same success, it is naive to believe achievement is found by following the same path.

Raised on handheld games, the world wide web, and social media networks, Digital Natives have developed cognitive thinking patterns that differ from previous generations. No longer are students engaged in textbook driven lesson plans, where the teacher lectures on a subject or writes notes on the board. Rather, today's contemporary learner thrives in environments where multi-tasking is the norm; lessons are relevant to the world in which they live; and a multitude of resources are at their fingertips, allowing them to explore at a pace that suits their needs.

Students have radically changed and so has Rocky View Schools.

20th C Classrooms

Classrooms

- Based on 18th C factory model
- Culture of information delivery
- Four walls
- Focused on memorization of facts
- Literacy focused on 3R's - reading, writing, and arithmetic
- Technology as a communication tool

Curriculum

- Packaged into subjects, fragmenting curriculum
- Time-based
- Lessons focused on knowledge, comprehension and application
- Curriculum often deemed irrelevant by students
- Textbook driven

Instruction & Assessment

- Teacher is dispenser of information
- Diversity in students is ignored
- Teacher is evaluator and judge
- Grades based on standardized tests and a regurgitation of memorized facts
- Print is the primary vehicle of learning and assessment
- Standardized tests

Learners

- Success for some
- Learners working mostly in isolation
- Learners have little freedom
- Motivation is low

RVS' 21st C Classrooms

Classrooms

- Focuses on individualized learning plans
- Culture of knowledge generation and collaboration
- Any time, any place, any path, any pace
- Focus on development of thinking and learning skills, i.e. critical thinking
- Multiple literacies, aligned to living and working in a global society
- Technology as a learning tool

Curriculum

- Shaped around projects, integrating a wide number of topics
- Competency-based
- Learning designed on synthesis, analysis and evaluation
- Curriculum connected to students' interests, experiences and talents
- Accessible resources, i.e. digital

Instruction & Assessment

- Teacher acts as a facilitator and a coach
- Instruction designed to meet individual needs
- Assessment involves self, peers and others
- Assessment based on demonstration of understanding through application
- Multiple forms of media are used for learning and assessment
- Portfolios and demonstration

Learners

- Success for all
- Learners working collaboratively, with others around the world
- Learners are active, self-directed
- Motivation is high

Building 21st Century Literacies

Today's kindergarten children will be retiring in the year 2071. While we have no idea of what the world will look in five years, much less 60 years, Rocky View Schools is charged with preparing students for life in that world.

Today's Digital Natives are facing many emerging issues such as global warming, famine, poverty, and a global population explosion. These issues demand students of tomorrow have the ability to communicate, function and create change personally, socially, economically and politically on local, national and global levels.

Leading educational researchers know that public education must extend beyond helping students acquire simple reading, writing, and calculating skills. In fact, success in the 21st Century will require students develop a broader range of literacies, coined by one leading research group, the Metiri Group, as 'Digital-Age Literacy'. By definition, they include:

Basic Literacy: Language proficiency and numeracy at levels necessary to function on the job and in society to achieve one's goals, and develop one's knowledge and potential in this Digital Age.

Scientific Literacy: Knowledge and understanding of the scientific concepts and processes required for personal decision-making, participation in civic and cultural affairs, and economic productivity.

Economic Literacy: The ability to identify economic problems, alternatives, costs, and benefits; analyze economic situations; examine the consequences of changes in economic conditions and public policies; collect and organize economic evidence; and weigh costs against benefits.

Technological Literacy: Knowledge about what technology is, how it works, what purposes it can serve, and how it can be used effectively to achieve specific goals.

Visual Literacy: The ability to interpret, use, appreciate, and create images and video using both conventional and 21st Century media in ways that advance thinking, decision-making, communication, and learning.



Information Literacy: The ability to evaluate information across a range of media; recognize when information is needed; locate, synthesize, and use information effectively; and accomplish these functions using technology, communication networks, and electronic resources.

Multicultural Literacy: The ability to understand and appreciate the similarities and differences in the customs, values, and beliefs of one's own culture and the cultures of others.

Global Awareness: The recognition and understanding of interrelationships among international organizations, nation-states, public and private economic entities, sociocultural groups, and individuals across the globe.

Rocky View Schools is working to instill these new literacies in students through a wide array of strategies and programs. We encourage you to ask our schools for more information around these efforts.



Look how far we've come already!

Rocky View Schools can be proud that its Digital Natives are on the path to realizing their full potential, through learning environments that are supportive, engaging and innovative. Just look how far we've come!

Over the past 28 months stakeholders from all four corners of the jurisdiction have worked collectively to transform RVS into a 21st C learning organization. Teachers have begun to shift their instructional practice from knowledge disseminator to facilitator of knowledge construction. Administrators have modified and built structures to encourage risk-tak-

ing and to champion a mental mode of system thinking. Trustees have redirected resources to support innovative strategies. And students, using technology as an accelerator, are well on the way to becoming "engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit".

Provided below are highlights of

RVS' 2009/10 Annual Education Results Report. As illustrated, marked improvements already have been made in stakeholder satisfaction levels, high school completion and drop-out rates, and in PAT and Diploma results. A complete copy of 2009/10 Annual Education Results Report, can be found at www.rockyview.ab.ca under "publications".

Safe & Caring Schools

Not unlike previous years, the 2009/10 school year saw schools and the jurisdiction employ a wide variety of strategies to nurture safe and caring learning environments. Through their School Annual Results Reports, schools reported hosting a wide array of safe and caring projects that covered topics such as anti-bullying, virtues, cyber safety, and peer support. At the jurisdictional level, the Education Centre launched a new coaching program, entitled Respect in Sports, which aimed to provide all young athletes with a positive, character-building experience. Specifically, the program was designed to assist coaches in identifying and effectively dealing with abuse, neglect, harassment and bullying in sport. RVS also was successful in implementing a comprehensive jurisdictional emergency response plan with the assistance of Hour Zero. As defined under the program, students are being engaged by practicing eight (8), age-appropriate drills, including evaluations, shelter-in-place and lockdowns. As well the Education Centre held two Employee Orientation Programs, a School Council Orientation Program, and a Staff Wellness Program.

Addressing the whole child

In 2009/10 Rocky View Schools continued to be persistent in addressing the social, emotional and behavioural needs of the whole child by collaborating with external agencies to maximize support services to students. In partnership with the United Way, RVS introduced the UpStart project, which aims to increase access to recreation for children and youth in their home communities. In collaboration with Big Brothers Big Sisters, RVS implemented a Teen Mentoring Program at Cochrane, Beiseker and W.G. Murdoch High Schools and with their feeder schools. As well, a partnership with the City of Airdrie has led to a Community Resource Officer Program to support the needs of middle and high schools. RVS also established a divisional "Food for Thought" Working Group, comprised of internal and external members, to guide the planning and implementation of a system-wide school breakfast/lunch program.

Facilitative Coaching

To accommodate the needs of all learners, the jurisdiction continued to provide a facilitative coaching model based upon, and responding to, the



needs of individual teachers and schools. Making use of a responsive, adaptive and agile model of support, a multi-disciplinary team from the Learning department worked with groups of cohort teachers to build their capacity and mentorship abilities around inquiry and project-based learning. The team also focused on presenting exemplary innovative practices using technology, digital resources, and other strategies to accelerate excellence in 21st Century teaching.

21st Century Learners

A high degree of parents, students and staff felt schools are preparing students for the 21st Century. Eighty-six (86%) percent of parents, 92 percent of staff and 83 percent of students expressed satisfaction that students are learning to become critical, creative, and complex thinkers. In relation to provincial standardized tests, students exceeded provincial results at the acceptable level in 24 of 31 specific test results. Although performance of Grade 9 students was a concern in 2008/09, notable improvements were made in 2009/10. Nine out of 11 tests revealed improvement over 2008/09 results, and 8 of 11 results were above provincial results. Particular strengths were observed in English Language Arts 3, French Language Arts 3, Math 3 in English and English/French combined, English Language Arts 9, Science 9 in English and English/French combined.

21st Century Culture

The 2009/10 school year was a strong year of growth for RVS with respect to building a 21st Century Learning culture. After three years of planning and implementing a transformational shift, the jurisdiction has reached a “tipping point” whereby a critical mass of teachers have begun to move away from knowledge disseminator to facilitator of knowledge construction, and

are using technology as an accelerator for this shift. Contributing factors included a dynamic two-day leadership institute where school administrators had the opportunity to clearly define 21st C teaching practices and expectations for their schools. RVS’ school calendar, which featured ten professional learning days, also allowed staff to build capacity in 21st C literacy and instruction. Emerging technologies and a common timetable among all 9 high schools also allowed all high school students access to programs through online learning management systems.

Student Completion Rates

Alberta Education’s High School Completion Rates reveal that 7 percent more students in Rocky View are attaining their high school diplomas than those from other school jurisdictions. Equally as impressive is the fact that only 2.2 percent of Rocky View students are not completing high school, as compared to the provincial average of 4.3 percent. As in previous years Grade 12 results on Diploma Exams too are exceptional. In all but one area, students outperformed their provincial counterparts. Outstanding performance was witnessed in Applied Math, Pure Math, English Language Arts 30-2, Physics 30 and Social 30-2 where RVS students exceeded provincial results by 6 to 7 percent.

Distinct Programs

To enhance students’ success, RVS offered a number of programming opportunities during the 2009/10 school year. In addition to providing French Immersion and Christian programming, the jurisdiction introduced a series of distributed learning opportunities to students through its weConnect program. Based on the belief that students are best served at their home school in a supervised setting where they know both students and staff and feel part of a learning community, weConnect

provided students with access to a full range of courses and supports utilizing a variety of synchronous (Video Conferencing and Elluminate) and asynchronous (D2L, email, Wikis, etc) tools. Through these platforms students connected to learners, teachers, and support staff at other school sites, opening the door to access a multitude of core and optional courses. In May 2010, the Board also welcomed the addition of the sport performance school, Edge School, to the jurisdiction. Located in Springbank, the school offers a unique learning community where children in Grades 5-12 can pursue academic excellence, while striving to reach their full athletic potential.

Technology Access and Use

As directed by its Three Year Plan, the Board allocated available funds towards supporting initiatives and strategies laid out in the plan. Monies were dedicated to enhancing RVS’ bandwidth from 30 Mbits to 450 Mbits, increasing the average daily usage from 10 Mbits at peak times, to approximately 120 by the end of year. All environments were made wireless, and by June 2010 all classrooms were installed with a projector, and/or a SMART board, mimeo, or promithian, bringing the number of schools that have met RVS’ contemporary technological standards to 100 percent. The jurisdiction’s IT Department also was successful in installing video conferencing units in all high schools. Funds also were dedicated to an Innovative Technology grant, allowing schools to explore innovative technologies that focus on improving student learning in the classroom. Several technology-based platforms also were introduced, including Google accounts, which provide for student email, along with Plone, Moodle, Apple Wiki, Podcast Producer, Mahara, ePEARL, and Video Conferencing.



What are the **KEYS** to our success? **EFFECTIVE** early childhood services

Preschool Intervention Program (PIP)

Rocky View's Preschool Intervention Program (PIP) supports children aged 2½ to 5 years old with severe developmental needs and 3½ to 5 year olds with mild/moderate needs. PIP currently operates at RJ Hawkey in Airdrie and at Glenbow Elementary in Cochrane.

PIP was developed to provide specialized services for preschool-aged children with special needs, enabling them to be supported within their community. It provides children with small class sizes, small adult-child ratios, language enriched environments, family orientated programming sessions, and transitions to the next year. Using a collaborative approach, practitioners integrate services and strategies functionally in the classroom on a daily basis. The areas of need addressed within the program include services offered by specialists trained in: speech and language; fine and gross motor skills; social skill development; and school psychology. PIP team members collaborate with the Alberta Children's Hospital, medical personnel, outside agencies, private preschool programs, as well as the Calgary Health Authority, to help support families by gathering information to understand and support their child.

The majority of children who access PIP must meet criteria set by Alberta Education. The first step in the process requires parents to complete a PIP application form, available at the two schools or through the Education Centre's Early Intervention Team.

Learn more by attending one of two PIP Information Sessions: Jan. 26, 2011 from 9 to 11 am at RJ Hawkey Elementary in Airdrie or on Jan. 27, 2011 from 9 to 11 am at Glenbow Elementary in Cochrane. For more information contact Early Intervention at 403.945.4027.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is one of the most exciting times in a child's life. Ensuring each child makes a successful transition from home to school is a goal for parents and teachers. Rocky View's Kindergarten programs build on what the child has already learned at home and in the community.

Based on Alberta Education's Kindergarten Program Statement, student programming focuses on seven areas of learning: early literacy; early numeracy; citizenship and identity; environment and community awareness; personal and social identity; physical skills and well-being; and creative expression.

Assessment is a natural, ongoing and important part of each Kindergarten child's learning. Through questioning and talking to children, listening to the language they use and observing their behaviour, teachers gain information about children's levels of skill and understanding. Through oral and written reports, parent evenings, classroom visits and/or conferences, teachers and parents exchange ideas and discuss the progress and achievements of the child.

Get off to a great start! Registration information for Kindergarten is listed on page 12.

CHOICE in programming

Rocky View Schools boasts a wide number of programs that recognize the specialized needs and interest of parents and students. Core subject areas are complemented with programs including:

French Immersion & Languages

At Rocky View, French Immersion is more than just a language - it's a total educational and cultural experience. Beginning in Kindergarten, French Immersion allows students with non-French speaking backgrounds the ability to become highly proficient in French, both oral and written. In Kindergarten to Grade 2, students are instructed mostly in French. More formal English instruction is incorporated into the program at the Grade 3 level. Extra-curricular activities, including music, theatre, and dance, create a well-rounded experience. French Immersion is available in Airdrie, Chestermere, Cochrane, and Springbank. Various schools also offer courses in French, Spanish, German, Japanese, and English as a Second Language.

Christian Education

For families who want their children taught in a spiritually nurturing, intellectually challenging, disciplined environment, Rocky View offers Christian education programs in Cochrane and in Chestermere. Mitford Middle School's "Cochrane Christian Program" offers students the chance to complete Alberta's program of studies in a non-denominational Christian classroom environment with bible instruction. Prince of Peace Lutheran School in Chestermere also welcomes all families, regardless of faith background, who desire a Christian education that

encourages students to learn biblical truths and live them out in a public education setting.

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) Programming is designed for highly motivated and academically astute high school students who require a more rigorous and diverse educational experience. The AP program is an internationally recognized enrichment program that is ideal for students who find learning stimulating and exciting, and are excelling in one or more subject areas.

Off-Campus Education

Rocky View Schools offers an extensive "off-campus" education program, which includes registered apprenticeship, work experience, and cooperative education opportunities to all students from Grade 7 to 12. These programs are for students who are interested in gaining hands-on job experience while earning high school credits. Other workplace learning opportunities, such as work-study and job shadowing, allow junior and senior high school students to explore different careers.

Knowledge & Employability

Beginning in Grade 8, the Knowledge and Employability program aims to develop entry-level vocational skills through practical hands-on learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom. This program is described as a selection of courses, matched to work-related and occupational studies.

Outreach

Set in store-front locations in Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere, Rocky View's Outreach programs are housed under the Rocky View Learning Connection. These programs serve as an alternative placement for students

experiencing academic or personal challenges, but who wish to achieve a high school diploma. With assistance from certificated teachers, students can focus on upgrading their academic skills and/or concentrate on building self-worth and a positive attitude to learning.

Home Schooling

The Rocky View Learning Connection (RVLC) provides flexible and innovative learning options for students in Grades 1 to 12, through the use of distributed, print and blended programming. There are three physical campuses in Airdrie, Chestermere and Cochrane, as well as an online campus found at < <http://rvlc.rockyview.ab.ca/>>. Up to \$1500 in supplemental funding is available for students enrolled in RVLC. In addition to its strong core and complementary program offerings, field trips, on-site classes, science labs, picnics, and physical education activities are some of the ways the school community is brought together.

WeConnect

High School students wanting greater access, choice, flexibility, and authentic learning experiences in their local school achieve so through "weConnect" classrooms. Under the helm of Rocky View Learning Connection, weConnect classrooms allow students to connect with learners and teachers at other school sites through the use of a variety of technologies, like Video Conferencing, Elluminate, D2L, Moodle, email and wikis. Such connections afford students the opportunity to enroll in a variety of courses, either not available at their home school or those which do not fit into their individual timetables.



RESPONSIVE programming!



for the basic need of students, Rocky View continues to look at expanding these services in both existing and new communities in the jurisdiction.

Social/ Emotional Health

As a student's social/emotional health can be directly tied to their academic success, Rocky View continues to support programs that focus on building strong bodies and minds.

New programs being offered include "MindMatters", a very successful program with roots in Australia, which focusses on developing characteristics of resiliency. Many schools also employ "Circle of Courage", a program originating with the Reclaiming Youth organization that supports students experiencing some difficulty in the social/emotional arena.

Healthy Eating Initiative

In partnership with the Calgary Health Region, Rocky View has developed a set of Healthy Eating Guidelines, which provide schools with specific recommendations to support optimal nutrition practices. Approximately 90 percent of schools are engaged in specific activities related to this initiative, such as purging food kiosks and vending machines of high-sugar, high-fat food choices and replacing them with pita sandwiches, pita pizzas, fresh fruit and veggies.

Before & After School Care

Families residing in Airdrie, Springbank, Bragg Creek, and Cochrane will want to enquire about the availability of Before and After School Care. Several programs operate in the jurisdiction by either independent or public entities, such as The Boys and Girls Club or FCSS. With an eye on caring

Family School Liaison Workers

Available in communities throughout Rocky View, Family School Liaison Workers provide a wide range of supports to parents, family members and schools in working together to optimize the student's learning experience.

Assistance includes personal counselling, problem-solving, program planning and referral to community-based agencies.

Mental Health Workers

Assessments, consultations, and referral to specialized services are available through Rocky View's Mental Health

Workers. Working with the student, his/her parents and the school, the workers help to ensure each student can get the most from their learning environment. Unique to Rocky View, two doctoral level practitioners join these workers to offer their expertise and gain experience in the educational environment.

Stepping Stones to Mental Health

In partnership with the Alberta Mental Health Board and the community, Bert Church, George McDougall, and Chestermere High Schools offer their students access to "Stepping Stones". Through the program, students access integrated, on-site support including access to a Success Coach, an Addictions Counsellor and a Cultural Diversity Specialist.

Big Brother Big Sister/ MPower

Operating at the middle and senior high school levels, Big Brother Big Sister/MPower offers students the opportunity to spend time with a caring adult one hour a week during the school day. Focusing on empowering youth in decision-making rather than deciding what youth need, these adult mentors offer a sincere desire to encourage and listen to a young person.

Gifted Programming

Every child is a gift, but a small portion of the population is what psychologists and educators consider 'gifted'. Simply put, it means that gifted students have the ability to, or are displaying, an exceptionally high rate of learning,

depth of knowledge, and cognitive reasoning for their age group. To better accommodate gifted students, Rocky View psychologists and program specialists work closely with schools to implement strategies that meet these students' needs, such as clustering, grouping by ability, and acceleration and enrichment opportunities.

Special Need Services

Wherever possible, Rocky View teachers develop Individualized Program Plans (IPP) to accommodate an individual student's unique learning, social/emotional, and behavioural needs within the classroom and school settings. Unlike most school jurisdictions that provide programming based on a student's diagnostic category, Rocky View identifies and serves all students according to their needs. Interventions provided are based on a continuum of classroom accommodations, congregated settings and individual instruction through the child's teacher, a team of specialists and/or external agencies. Through the Learning Branch, extensive partnerships have been established with the Calgary Health Authority and other agencies to address non-academic barriers to learning.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit

To enhance educational opportunities for Aboriginal learners, Rocky View offers programming founded in Alberta Education's First Nations, Métis and Inuit Framework. Throughout the year, aboriginal learnings are brought into the classroom through cultural advisors, storytellers, educators, dancers, singers, drummers, artists, and more. The aim is to enhance the understanding of Aboriginal traditions and worldview among students and educators.

NEW Adult Learning Courses starting January 2011

Registration begins January 7

Visit **RVS COMMUNITY LEARNING**

at <http://communitylearning.rockyview.ab.ca> for full course details and to register.

Courses offered include:

- English Language Learning (ESL) courses in Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere
- Free Drop-in Coffee and Conversation for English language learners
- Computer Basics • Photography • Painting • Sketching • Drawing
- Spanish • Financial Planning • Business Courses • Health & Wellness

ONLINE Courses available:

- Learn whenever you want, wherever you want.
- Update your skills or learn something new.
 - Course topics in:
 - Computers • Business • Customer Service
 - Creative Writing • Graphic Design
 - and many more!

VOLUNTEER COACHING for Adult Learners

One-to-one support is available for adult learners who want to improve their reading, writing or speaking skills. Whether it's learning to write an email, read a book to a child, finish a high school diploma, or shop for groceries, we can help.

For more information or to become a Volunteer Learning Coach please visit <http://communitylearning.rockyview.ab.ca> or call 403.945.4114.

ADULT LEARNING Workshops

Do you know an adult learner, of any age, who may need a hand understanding or filling out forms for their children's school, for their doctor, or for the Government?

Workshops are available to help 'learn the language of':

- Schools
- Finances
- Healthcare and more!

Visit <http://communitylearning.rockyview.ab.ca> or call 403.945.4114 for dates.



\$25/child Kindergarten Registration Fee

Parents enrolling their child in one of Rocky View's Kindergarten programs are required to pay a \$25 enrolment fee per child, per school.



Schools have arranged for a wide number of advanced registration activities to welcome new and returning students. See full details on pages 12-15!

REGISTRATION procedures, as easy as... **1 2 3**

All RVS schools will be accepting 2011/2012 registrations from January 24, 2011, onward!

Principals make arrangements for registration in their schools. Students new to the Division must register at their designated school. If you are unsure of your student's designated school, call 403.945.4009.

In order to register a student, parents/guardians will be asked to provide the following information:

- Proof of the child's age and legal name. Documents accepted are: birth certificate, adoption certificate, student authorization visa, Canadian citizenship papers, passport, or permanent landed immigrant/residence

documentation;

- Alberta Health Care Card number (not mandatory);

- Notification of special medical conditions or medications for the child;

- Caregiver name, if the child is in care of an adult other than parent/guardian for part of day;

- House number and street address if you live in a town or city; the legal land description (section, township and range, found under the land description on your gas bill) if you live on a farm or an acreage;

- Home and business telephone numbers (e-mail if available); and
- Name and address of child's previous school (applies to students moving into the system).

For the 2011/2012 school year, Rocky View Schools will accept children entering kindergarten who will be five years old on or before the last day of February, 2012.

Likewise, students who will be at least six years of age on or before the end of February, 2012 will be admitted into grade one.

SAFE transportation services

Rocky View Schools operates one of the largest student transportation systems in Alberta. Student bus service is provided to all K - 12 students who reside more than 2.4 kilometers from their designated school site. Bus service also is provided for students who attend Edge School.

Bus passes for urban students

Urban students, those residing in Airdrie, Cochrane or Chestermere, must purchase a bus pass annually. Bus passes can be obtained by submitting an electronic application on the Rocky View Schools' website at www.rockyview.ab.ca/transportation/busservices >. Alternatively, an application can be obtained at any Rocky View school or at the Education Centre in Airdrie. Completed forms, with payment to Rocky View Schools, can be returned in person or by mail to 2651 Chinook Winds Dr. SW, Airdrie, AB, T4B 0B4.

New rural student registration

Only new students residing in areas outside of Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere need to apply for transportation services. Registration forms are available at www.rockyview.ab.ca/transportation/busservices or at Rocky Views' Education Centre in Airdrie.

School of Choice Registration

Parents wanting to send their child to a school other than their designated school must complete an Out-of-Attendance Area school bus application form, available from the Transportation Department by phoning 403.945.4101.

School Bus Safety

Statistically the school bus is the safest way for children to go to and from school. Students are safer in a school bus than in a passenger vehicle because of the many safety features that are built into school buses.

Some safety hints for school bus passengers:

- Wait for the bus in a safe location, at least 3 giant steps from the edge of the road.
- Use the hand rail when getting on or off the bus and never push or shove.
- Remain seated while the bus is in motion; do not stand until the bus has come to a complete stop.

Direct LINKS into the organization!

Superintendent of Schools	403.945.4002
Assoc. Superintendent of Schools	403.945.4015
Assoc. Superintendent of Learning	403.945.4018
Assoc. Superintendent of Human Resources	403.945.4017
Assoc. Superintendent of Business & Operations	403.945.4008
Director of Schools	403.945.4019
Director of 21st Century Instruction	403.945.4038
Director of Learning	403.945.4033
Director of Technology for Learning	403.945.4024
Director of Organizational Learning	403.945.4023
Director of Human Resources	403.945.4006
Director of Communications	403.945.4012
Director of Facility Planning	403.945.4010
Director of Finance	403.945.4040
Director of Transportation	403.945.4106

EFFECTIVE Stewards

2010-2013
Board of Trustees



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403.946.4223



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403.948.3926



Ward 3
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Ward 4
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403.949.3428



Ward 5
Colleen Munro
403.932.1228



Ward 6
Bruce Pettigrew
403.709.9991



ADVANCED Registration Activities

AIRDRIE

A.E. Bowers (K-4)

403.948.4511

Principal: Lowell Jackie

A.E. Bowers Kindergarten registration begins at 7:30 am, Jan. 24, in the school office with doors opening at 7 am. A \$25 registration fee and copy of child's birth certificate are required.

Bert Church (9-12)

403.948.3800

Principal: Nancy Adams

Students entering or returning to Bert Church will want to note the following:

- Gr. 8 to 9 Orientation, Mar. 23
- Gr. 9 to 10 Orientation, Apr. 6

Students and their parents are encouraged to attend these sessions, which will be held in the theatre at 7 pm.

École Airdrie Middle* (5-8)

403.948.5969

Principal: Cathy Ziegler

Parents will have the opportunity at the August Open House to tour École Airdrie Middle, meet the teachers and learn of the many programs at the school. Details will be available on the school's website at <plone.rockyview.ab.ca/airdrie> in the spring.

École Edwards* (K-4)

403.948.5922

Principal: Sharon Cronin

Parents interested in enrolling their child in French Immersion should take note of a special K/Gr. 1 Information Meeting, slated for Jan. 18, 7-8 pm. Opportunity will be provided to talk to FI teachers and learn specifics of the program. Edwards' Kindergarten registration will be held on Jan. 24 from 7:30 am - 4 pm. Registrants will draw a lottery number to determine priority for AM or PM placement.

George McDougall* (9-12)

403.948.5935

Principal: Mark Davidson

Parents of students entering Gr. 9 in Sept. 2011 are invited to an information evening at George McDougall, Mar. 15 in the auxiliary gym, 6 pm for french immersion, 7 pm for the regular program. Gr. 10 registration info. night will be Mar. 22, 6 pm in the auxiliary gym. More details on these activities will arrive through the school newsletter and website. Watch for it!

Meadowbrook Middle (5-8)

403.948.5656

Principal: Brenda Valerio

A Gr. 4 student orientation is planned for Wednesday, May 25 from 1-2 pm at Meadowbrook Middle School, with a parent information meeting to follow from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the Learning Commons. More details available in the school's May newsletter, available online at <<http://plone.rockyview.ab.ca/meadow>>

Muriel Clayton Middle (5-8)

403.948.2445

Principal: Kim MacKenzie

Each Thursday from May 5 - June 9, school tours will be available for new registrants who call the school or drop by to sign-up. Notification for fall registration opportunities will be sent out in June.

Nose Creek (K-4)

403.945.1001

Principal: John Murphy

Pick up a Nose Creek Kindergarten registration package for 2011/12 from Jan. 24 onward. Beginning at 8:30 am, packages can be signed out and will be numbered to assist in determining AM or PM placement. Kindergarten parents' orientation and school tour is slated for May 19 from 6 - 7 pm.

R.J. Hawkey (K-4)

403.948.3939

Principal: Dan Hoch

R. J. Hawkey's Kindergarten registration begins Jan. 24, ongoing thereafter. Doors open at 7 am, with morning or afternoon placement operating on a 'first come, first served' basis. An information package will be available outlining all aspects of the program, with tours available as well. Parents should also plan to attend the Kindergarten Parent Information Evening, May 12, from 7 - 8:30 pm. Kindergarten teachers and administration will provide a presentation of the program, answer questions and offer school tours.

Ralph McCall (K-8)

403.948.7030

Principal: Jim Forrest

Kindergarten registration for the 2011/12 school year will be held on Jan. 28, beginning at 9 am in the Ralph McCall school library. Parents will then be able to visit classrooms, meet the teachers and receive an overview of the curriculum at the Kindergarten Parent Orientation on June 1 at 7 pm.

Learning Connection - Airdrie Campus (1-12)

403.948.4360

Principal: Craig Schwesinger

Looking for an alternative education program for your child? Find out what Rocky View Learning Connection can offer through virtual, print, blended, and homeschool programs across the jurisdiction. Registration for Gr. 1 - 12 programs is ongoing. Visit the school's website to check it out at <http://rvlc.rockyview.ab.ca/> or call for an appointment.

BEISEKER**Beiseker (K-7/9-12)**

403.947.3883

Principal: Val Murdoff

Beiseker's Gr. 9 Orientation/Information night will be held Apr. 18 at 7 pm. Parents and upcoming Gr. 9 students will have the opportunity to meet the teachers and tour the school.

Parents of Kindergarten students are invited to meet the staff and tour the school during the Open House on June 2 at 7 pm.

CHESTERMERE**Chestermere High (10-12)**

403.272.8868

Principal: Sharon Rhodes

Chestermere High will be showcased at the School Information Meeting and Open House, Mar. 22 from 7 - 8 pm in the south gym.

Chestermere Lake Middle (6-9)

403.273.1343

Principal: Tammy Rahn

Each Thursday, from Apr. 7 - June 16, Chestermere Lake Middle will offer school tours beginning at 3:00 pm. Call the school to register your child for any Thursday during those weeks and arrive at the school before 2:50 pm.

Prairie Waters* (K-5)

403.285.6969

Principal: Keith Hadden

Prairie Waters is offering a 'Passport to Kindergarten', Jan. 24 from 2-4 pm and 5-7 pm. Child and parent will receive a passport which will enable them to cycle through a variety of stations including Literacy, Numeracy, Public Library, Photobooth, and Health Nurse. There'll be balloons, goodie bags and registration, too! A second 'Passport to Kindergarten' will be hosted later in the Spring with the specific date TBA upon registration.

Prince of Peace (K-9)

403.285.2288

Principal: Todd Hennig

Circle Feb. 28, 6-8 pm, on your calendar as Prince of Peace Lutheran School's Open House. Parents will have the opportunity to explore the school, meet staff, other parents and learn more about the Christian program and The Leader in Me.

Rainbow Creek (K-5)

403.273.8129

Principal: Laura McArthur

Rainbow Creek's Kindergarten Registration begins Jan. 24. Numbered packages will be available starting at 9 am. Preference for placement is based on first-come first-served, but parents should note that classes will be balanced for gender and special needs as well. The Open House, complete with tours and curriculum overview, will take place in the spring, date TBA.

Learning Connection - Chestermere Campus (9-12)

403.235.0294

Principal: Craig Schwesinger

Looking for an alternative education program for your child? Find out what Rocky View Learning Connection can offer through its virtual, print, blended, and homeschool programs. Registration is ongoing. Check it out at <http://rvlc.rockyview.ab.ca/>.

COCHRANE**Bow Valley (9-12)**

403.932.9005

Principal: Rob Kimura

Take a tour of the school and participate in interactive displays as Bow Valley High School teachers showcase the school's programs at its Open House, Mar. 3 from 6-8 pm.

Cochrane High* (9-12)

403.932.2542

Principal: Susan Poole

New students interested in attending Cochrane High who are currently not part of the feeder school system are invited to attend an Advanced Registration Meeting on Jan. 26 at 7 pm in room 103. Program highlights include: honours, advanced placement, French immersion and special needs. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. On Mar. 9 at 7 pm CHS will host an Open House for students and parents to showcase their programming excellence, including academic, complementary, and extra-curricular.

Learning Connection - Cochrane Campus (7-12)

403.932.6131

Principal: Craig Schwesinger

Looking for an alternative education program for your child? Find out what Rocky View Learning Connection can offer through its virtual, print, blended, and homeschool programs. Registration for programs is ongoing. Check it out at <http://rvlc.rockyview.ab.ca/>.

Elizabeth Barrett* (K-4)

403.932.3151

Principal: Joanne Tardif-Maisonneuve

Parents considering a second language program for their child will want to attend Elizabeth Barrett's French Immersion (FI) Information Meeting, slated for Jan. 19, 7 pm. An overview of the FI program will be provided, with samples of student work and a Q & A. Registration for both English and FI Kindergarten programs begins Jan. 24 and is ongoing thereafter. Office hours for the first week are: Jan. 24-27, 9:30 am - 12 pm and 1-3 pm; also Jan. 24 from 5-7 pm. A Kindergarten Parent Orientation will be held May 18 at 7 pm and include highlights of the programs, bus info, volunteering and a tour of the school.



Advanced registration activities continued

Glenbow (K-4)

403.932.4922

Principal: Deb Rougeau-Bell

Do you live in Cochrane's Heritage Hills, Sunset Ridge or south of the railroad tracks and west of Hwy 22? Then register your Kindergarten child at Glenbow School, Jan. 24-27, open from 8:30 am - 4 pm each day. An information package will be provided. Kindergarten parents are invited to a Parent Orientation Meeting, May 25 at 7 pm, to learn of Glenbow's Kindergarten philosophy and program. Attendees also will meet the teachers and get a school tour.

Manachaban Middle* (5-8)

403.932.2215

Principal: Thomas Elbel

Manachaban will host a Gr. 5 Orientation the day prior to school start from 9 - 11 am, date TBA. Students will participate in fun team-building activities with Gr. 8 mentors, meet homeroom teachers, get locker assignments and a tour of the school. Parents are welcome to join in the orientation. An Open House for Gr. 6-8 parents is slated for Aug. 27 from 11 am to 1:30 pm, at which time all parents and students, old and new to the school, are welcome to meet the staff and tour the building!

Mitford Middle (5-8)

Cochrane Christian Program (K-8)

403.932.4457

Principal: Brent Leibel

Cochrane Christian Program's K-Gr. 8 Open House/Kindergarten registration is scheduled for Jan. 27 from 7-8 pm. Parents are invited to meet the staff, ask questions, tour classrooms and learn of the unique opportunity of attending a public school with a Christian education component. Mitford Middle also is planning a Gr. 5 orientation for June 2010. Check the school's website for date and time later in the spring.

CROSSFIELD

Crossfield Elementary (K-5)

403.946.5696

Principal: Tammy Dikeman

Crossfield Elementary invites parents to its Kindergarten Registration, Mar. 15, beginning at 7 pm in the library. This information session is for parents only, please. Note that a copy of the child's birth certificate and fee of \$25 are required. Student registration for the 2011/12 school year will begin March 18 during regular school hours (8:40 am - 3:40 pm). Parents who would like a school tour are requested to call the school a few days in advance.

W.G. Murdoch (6-12)

403.946.5665

Principal: Greg Roberts

Join W.G. Murdoch on Mar. 10 for its High School Orientation for upcoming Gr. 9 students. Beginning at 6:30 pm, information will be provided on high school courses and graduation requirements. May 19, 6:30 pm, has been set aside for the Parent Information Session for Gr. 5 students moving into W.G. Murdoch for grade six in the fall of 2011. There will be opportunity to meet the grade six teachers and learn about the program of studies.

MD of ROCKY VIEW

Bears paw (K-8)

403.239.9607

Principal: Dorothy Dyer

Bears paw's Advanced Registration packages and School Information kits will be ready for pick-up from Jan. 24 onward. Office hours are M-Th, 8 am to 4:30 pm, and Fri. from 8 am - 2:30 pm. The spring open house for Kindergarten is slated for May 12, at which time students can get a feel for school life by participating in the First Ride program sponsored by RVS' Transportation Dept. Also watch for Bears paw's Open House

and Tours for new families, held each year in August, just before school commences!

Banded Peak (K-8)

403.949.2292

Principal: Deborah McLaren

Parents are invited to take a 'peak' and explore the possibilities of Kindergarten at Banded Peak. The event is slated for Jan. 24 at 7 pm in the student gathering area. Banded Peak boasts a learning environment, rich with early literacy, numeracy, daily PE & music, buddy program and more! The Kindergarten M-Th AM program also provides access to on-site childcare in the afternoons. The school's Gr. 1 Parent Information Evening will take place Mar. 8 at 7 pm. Childcare provided at both evening events. Of interest to parents should be access to on-site before and after school care provided at this K-8 community-focused school!

Edge School (5-12)

403.246.6432

Principal: Tim Main

Edge School is hosting an Open House on Feb. 15 from 6-9 pm. Come meet the faculty and program staff, and tour the facility. Visit edgeschool.com for a complete list of activities planned for this event or call Anne McCaffrey, Director of Admissions, for more info.

Elbow Valley* (K-4)

403.242.1117

Principal: Celia Barrington

Parents wanting their child to learn a second language will want to attend Elbow Valley's Kindergarten/Gr. 1 French Immersion Info Evening, Jan. 18 from 7-8:30 pm. Also on the calendar is the Kindergarten Open House, slated for Jan. 20 from 9-11 am. Meet the teacher, tour the school, and learn of the exciting educational experience that awaits your child!

Indus Elementary(K-8)

403.936.5855

Principal: Chael Wyper

Indus' Kindergarten Parent Orientation Meeting is slated for May 10 at 7 pm. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the teachers and receive program information. Then May 19 from 7-8 pm has been set as the Indus School Open House, when parents will be invited to view students' work and meet informally with staff.

Langdon School (K-9)

403.936.4579

Principal: Ira Stroh

Langdon's Kindergarten registration for the 2011/12 school year runs Jan. 24-28 from 9 am - 3 pm in the school office. School tours will be offered to these new Kindergarten students and their parents on Jan. 31 from 9-10 am and 1-2 pm. Please report to the school office for your tour!

Kathryn School (1-8)

403.935.4291

Principal: Brad Walls

Grade 1 Orientation at Kathryn School is slated for June 2. New Gr. 1 students will spend the day with current Gr. 1s to learn the ropes of school life. A parent orientation meeting will be held in the afternoon of the same day. Please call the school for more details at 403.935.4291.

Springbank High* (9-12)

403.246.4771

Principal: Leslie Collings

Students entering or returning to Springbank Community High in Sept. 2011 will want to note these dates:

- Mar. 22: Gr. 9 Open House
- Mar. 23: Gr. 10 Open House
- Mar. 24: Gr. 11 & 12 Open House

Students and parents are encouraged to attend.

Springbank Middle* (5-8)

403.242.4456

Principal: Pam Davidson

Come 'Celebrate Springbank', Feb. 15 from 5:30-7:30 pm. The open house will feature student presentations, musical performances, athletic showcase, technology tours, French Cafe and more. You won't want to miss it!

**Westbrook School (K-8)**

403.932.5443

Principal: Glenn McClure

Westbrook Kindergarten Registration for 2011 is slated for Jan. 24-27 during the office hours of 9 am - 3 pm. The school will welcome its prospective kindergarten students and their parents to its Kindergarten Information Night, Jan. 26 from 5:30-6:30 pm. Call the school for details.

Volunteers!

Parent and community volunteers are a staple in Rocky View Schools. Each year thousands of volunteer hours are logged in schools in the areas of classroom support, clerical assistance, fund-raising, field trip activities, and special event planning & coordination.

Caring members of the community, of all ages and cultures, also are making an immense contribution to the children in Rocky View Schools. In fact, this awareness and growing opportunities within schools have greatly increased non-parent volunteerism in the jurisdiction. If you've thought about volunteering at a public school, but just don't know what you could do, here are a few ideas:

- **As a mentor** through Rocky View's partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters/MPower, volunteers who are 20 years and older can spend time once a week with middle, junior or senior high school students, aged 12-18 years. Mentors help children and youth gain confidence, acquire new skills and develop better peer relationships.

- **As a tutor** you can help help students improve their grades, learn productive study skills, and build their academic self-confidence.

- **As a guest speaker** you can open the door for students to learn of an exciting career, a unique hobby or a community social cause.

Share your passion for children; contact your neighbourhood school to find out how you can volunteer!



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

that extends beyond registration!

Become a member of a School Council

School Councils play a vital role in Rocky View Schools. At the school level, they help shape the delivery of educational services to their children by providing input into the School Education Plan and School Annual Results Report. They also contribute by providing feedback into the school's budget, its mission, vision and philosophy, and locally developed policies.

A School Council consists of:

- the principal of the school;
- at least one teacher at the school;
- if the school includes a senior high school program, at least one student enrolled in the high school;
- parents of students at the school, and
- a parent of a Kindergarten child or a community representative (optional).

Rocky View's Board of Trustees values the contributions of its School Councils. Outside of regularly attending Council meetings, Trustees seek feedback from these parent groups on Board policies and new educational directions. Twice a year, School Councils are invited to meet with the Board. The agenda is set collaboratively so both Trustees and Council members can discuss common areas of interest and concern.

In recognition of the valuable contributions School Councils make, Trustees have purchased a jurisdictional membership for councils to belong to the Alberta School Councils Association. They also host a formal orientation program in June of each school year and hold three professional learning inservices that cover a wide variety of topics, from Webportal training to team building with school administrators.

Meeting the needs of today's Digital Native requires the attention and participation of the entire community. Parents and community members are encouraged to play a role in RVS.

Stay informed!

Regular communication with your child's teacher and school is a critical factor to your child's educational success. Schools in the jurisdiction employ a wide variety of communication tools to keep parents abreast of students' progress. A student agenda, which arrives home in a child's backpack with notes from the teacher, is a common communication practice. So, too, is the distribution of weekly/monthly parent newsletters.

As a 21st Century practice, the use of the worldwide web and email to communicate between school and home is helping to improve student learning. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher early to identify the best means of communicating with one another.

Parents also should plan on attending parent/student/teacher interviews, usually held twice over the course of the school year. Numerous public events, such as welcome back BBQs, concerts and award evenings, are also held annually to showcase the talents and success of students. Watch for these events to be shared through school webportals and newsletters. Of course, teachers and school administrators are only a phone call or email away. At the jurisdiction level, the Board works to keep its parents, School Councils and community representatives informed through invitations to attend its public Board meetings, through news releases and its webportal (www.rockyview.ab.ca), and a variety of weekly, bi-weekly and bi-annual newsletters.

The public is welcome take advantage of the jurisdiction's electronic subscription service to get rapid delivery of Rocky View Schools' information. Go to <http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/parents/publications/subscription-services> to sign up today.

on track



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