2019 – 2023 Innovators by Design

Working to ensure students achieve their full potential

Rocky View Schools (RVS) stands proud of the 1,000s of voices that contributed to the development of its new 2019 – 2023 Four Year Plan, Innovators by Design. It’s bold, it’s visionary, it exemplifies the belief that all children have the ability to achieve their full potential, regardless of their inherent differences.

The plan also fosters the mindset that children are born innovators, it’s how they learn the tough stuff, like walking and talking, feeding themselves and tying shoes. They try a lot and fail a lot. Once they’ve learned to say the word why, they just won’t stop – and RVS doesn’t want them to!

This September, schools across the jurisdiction will accept the challenge of helping all students reach their full potential by intentionally designing learning experiences that nurture an innovator’s mindset. Understanding that students have an innate curiosity and eagerness to learn, RVS knows the development of innovators happens by design:

A design where students share what they learn, so when one learns, we all learn.

A design that meets students where they are and supports them in the journey to where they need to and want to be.

A design that supports and encourages teachers, administrators and support staff to be innovators themselves.

RVS invites you to join the journey by becoming familiar with the new Four Year Plan. The goals, outcomes, design principles and strategies are highlighted on pages 2 and 3. As well, digital assets – videos or hyperlinks – are sprinkled throughout this edition and aim to build a greater understanding and appreciation of our ambitious new plan.

Connect with RVS this year!

In preparation of the arrival of over 25,000 students on the first day of school, Sept. 3, 2019, RVS is pleased to provide you with its 2019 Opening Day edition of Ontrack. This edition outlines RVS’ approach to learning and teaching, as well as the multitude of services and programs offered to students and their families. Be sure to look for the complete listing of school office openings and welcome back events, listed on pages 19 – 23.

See you in September!
2019 – 2023 Four Year Plan

Goal and Outcomes

In RVS, we design learning so innovators, CONNECT to their passions, interests and people.

RVS teachers understand students have an innate curiosity and eagerness to learn. By intentionally designing learning activities that connect students to what and who they care about, teachers expand learning beyond the classroom and support students in understanding why their learning matters and how it can make a difference. Along the way, students develop creative confidence, communication and social skills, and agency in their lives.

Outcomes:
- Students engage in real-world, hands-on learning experiences that matter to them.
- Students demonstrate ownership of their learning.

ACHIEVE their potential

RVS teachers understand not all students learn in the same way, at the same age, to the same performance level, in all areas of study. By designing classroom instruction to address students’ personal learning styles and capabilities, students develop foundational skills and core competencies to acquire, create, connect and communicate knowledge in a variety of contexts. In partnership with parents, teachers communicate high expectations, motivating students to expand their individual potential, pursue excellence and overcome challenges.

Outcomes:
- Students are literate, numerate and acquire core competencies.
- Students meet high expectations and learning outcomes, tailored to their individual capabilities.

NAVIGATE successfully as global citizens

RVS teachers understand students thrive in schools that care about the development of the whole child – physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually. Fostering learning environments that value student voice, opportunity, fairness, compassion, citizenship, choice and diversity, teachers instill a sense of belonging, building empathy, resilience and the desire in students to take an active role in their community, and work with others to make the planet more equal, fair, vibrant and sustainable.

Outcomes:
- Students are healthy, safe, resilient and value diversity, cultures and traditions.
- Students make a positive difference in their life, school, community and the world.
LEARN

Design Principles

As we approach our work, together, we will LEARN:

**LEVERAGE** the capabilities of students and the community to make a positive impact on the lives of students, staff, parents and our world.

**ENGAGE** in purposeful work designed to build foundational skills and competencies through projects that foster deep understanding.

**APPRECIATE** and promote diversity in ideas, cultures and ways of knowing, being and learning.

**REFLECT** on learning through meaningful assessments to inform and showcase growth.

**NURTURE** positive relationships built on trust, support and care for one another.

**Strategies**

To enact the plan, RVS will focus on five priority areas:

### Schools’ Priorities

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:** Enhance and measure student voice in the co-construction of their learning.

**INCLUSION:** Refine and implement an inclusive framework to ensure all students are equally valued, safe and have their diverse needs met.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES:** Align pedagogical approaches to ensure instruction is relevant and meaningful for all students.

**MAKE LEARNING VISIBLE:** Enhance the visibility of all students’ learning journey and growth.

### Education Centre’s Priority

**SYSTEM REDESIGN:** Redesign RVS’ collaborative, organizational and planning structures to maximize resources, professional learning opportunities, teamwork and innovation.

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Modeling the Way Forward

Since its inaugural four year planning meeting in April 2018, RVS has engaged students, staff, parents and members of the community in a human-centred design process, aimed at identifying how the jurisdiction can make its education system even better for students. Unlike past traditional strategic planning processes employed, human-centred design is an innovative approach that builds deep empathy for the needs of those RVS is designing for, generates tons of ideas, focuses on testing and sharing those ideas, and eventually puts the best innovative ideas to work. In a nutshell, through its new design process RVS has built shared ownership across the jurisdiction by collaboratively developing goals, outcomes and priority areas for the next four years, then empowering its front-line staff in driving ideas and solutions forward.

This fall, schools across the jurisdiction will share the ideas they are testing and refining through RVS’ Idea Quest 2019, located on [RVS’ 2023byDesign.com](http://RVS’ 2023byDesign.com) – a crowd-sourced innovative platform launched in September 2018. On the site, each school will post its ideas and solutions around RVS’ four priorities for schools: student engagement, inclusion, instructional practices and making learning visible. School Education Plans and School Annual Result Reports, traditionally presented to school communities, also have been replaced with a ‘school playbook,’ which outlines the needs of students, staff and parents, results from Alberta Education and RVS pillars and the ideas (aka prototypes) they will be testing and evolving.

At the jurisdictional level, four Superintendent Design Teams were established to promote collaborative decision-making and build synergy and a deep understanding of the work ahead. Made up of a cross-section of school and system-based leaders, the design teams have been charged with:

- Refining and evolving RVS’ inclusive framework based on a formal review of the state of inclusion.
- Developing an instructional design framework to ensure instruction is intentionally designed to engage students through opportunities for voice, choice and the co-construction of their learning.
- Developing a professional learning plan to support the needs all of staff, with priority given to inclusion and instructional design.
- Identifying the conditions and barriers to fostering a culture of improvement, innovation and excellence and recommend changes to RVS’ collaborative, organizational and planning structures.

RVS is excited for September to arrive; 2019/20 promises to be a year of growth and innovation by design!
Putting learners first

RVS assists learners in achieving their full potential through learning opportunities that enable them to think critically, and act intelligently and purposefully. Placing a strong emphasis on literacy, numeracy, and the development of competencies such as problem-solving, RVS’ learning environment also:

**Puts Students First**

RVS is focused on building a student-centred approach to learning that continues to put the needs of students first. Instruction is designed to help all students succeed, based on their learning style, passions and interests. Students with complex needs receive additional educational support and have Individual Program Plans. Across the system, instruction is being personalized to support opportunities for self-directed and interdisciplinary learning.

**Supports Numeracy and Literacy**

Building students’ basic literacy and numeracy skills is a primary focus for all elementary schools. As students gradually become more proficient and begin to fine-tune these skills, this focus shifts to begin building content literacy in a variety of subject areas – truly a lifelong pursuit.

**Builds Learner Competencies**

Competency development is as important in RVS as helping students achieve learner outcomes in the programs of study. Learner competencies are a set of intellectual, personal and social skills needed to become a lifelong learner and model citizen. By concentrating on their development in designing K – Gr. 12 learning experiences, RVS students have a head start.

**Champions Inclusion**

RVS takes responsibility for all of its students, focusing on their strengths rather than on their limitations. Schools are committed to meeting the diverse needs of students in all settings, helping to ensure students experience a sense of belonging and acceptance. Teachers work to make learning environments accessible to all students by providing learners with:

- multiple ways of acquiring knowledge (e.g., hearing, seeing, online);
- multiple ways of demonstrating what they know (e.g., video, writing); and
- multiple means of engagement to tap into their interests and increase motivation.

**Fosters First Nations, Métis and Inuit Understanding**

To foster Indigenous learnings, RVS offers programming founded in Alberta Education’s First Nations, Métis and Inuit Framework. Throughout the year, Indigenous learnings are brought into the classroom through Elders, knowledge keepers, cultural advisors, storytellers, educators, dancers, singers, drummers, artists and more.

**Provides Authentic Learning**

In RVS, authentic learning seeks to motivate and engage students in the meaningful construction of knowledge, rather than solely in the reproduction of existing facts or ideas. Facilitated through real-world projects, authentic learning encourages students to: identify, create, and connect existing and new ideas; draw from their own experiences; consider alternative perspectives; and, transfer what they’ve learned to new situations. Research shows this approach deepens understanding of the content and promotes self-direction.

**Offers Blended Learning**

As not all learners learn at the same pace, RVS embraces a blended learning approach that takes advantage of a rich multi-media environment and combines it with the best face-to-face classroom experiences. By matching the right learning tool to the right student, for the right challenge, and at the right time, blended learning offers flexibility and choice for where, when and how learning takes place.
Preschool Intervention Program

RVS’ Preschool Intervention Program (PIP) is a publicly funded, early intervention program designed to support children aged three to five years old who have been identified with severe developmental needs. PIP provides children with the opportunity to increase their independence and self-regulation, while developing their social-emotional and school-readiness skills.

PIP offers a developmentally appropriate, language-rich, play-based program in which therapeutic interventions are embedded within daily classroom activities and routines. The PIP team includes a certified teacher, speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, psychologist, family-school liaison, as well as classroom assistants who work collaboratively to plan instruction and intervention to meet the unique needs of each child.

Programs are located in Chestermere, Airdrie and Cochrane and run Monday through Thursday, with Fridays dedicated to Family Oriented Programming Sessions (FOPS). FOPS are an integral part of programming with the goal of engaging and educating parents in support of their child’s ongoing growth and development.

To be eligible for PIP, children must be at least three years of age on or before Sept. 1 of the application year. Online applications will be available in January 2020. To find out more about PIP, attend an open house held in January and March, from 9 – 10:30 a.m. at:

- Chestermere – Jan. 21 and March 24, 2020, at East Lake School
- Cochrane – Jan. 22 and March 25, 2020, at Elizabeth Barrett Elementary
- Airdrie – Jan. 23, 2020, at R.J. Hawkey Elementary and March 26, 2020, at Cooper’s Crossing Elementary

To learn more about PIP, check out 👉 The Magic of PIP!

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is an exciting milestone in the lives of children and their families. These early experiences set the foundation for lifelong learning and begin to build the skills children need to become confident, resilient and contributing members of the community.

In RVS, the Alberta Kindergarten curriculum is delivered through a play-based approach. Play is a critical part of healthy development; it is the means through which children make sense of the world, develop essential skills and expand understanding. When teachers intentionally plan and create rich learning environments where children can discover, explore and engage with the curriculum through play, they honour the developmental needs of the child and lay important groundwork for future learning.

RVS provides an inclusive Kindergarten setting where diversity is embraced. All children are welcomed and encouraged as active participants in the classroom and school community. Using a strengths-based approach, staff focus on children’s abilities and provide consistent educational opportunities for all. Parents, as key partners in their child’s education, are valued members of the learning team.

Most Kindergarten programs within RVS are half-day, with both morning and afternoon classes available. Specific times vary by school. Kindergarten children are placed in a.m./p.m. classes, based on circumstances outlined by parents during the registration process.

Registration information for the 2019/20 school year is listed on pages 12 and 13.
French Immersion and Languages

In RVS, French Immersion is more than just a language program — it’s a total educational and cultural experience. Beginning in Kindergarten, French Immersion allows students from non-French speaking backgrounds the ability to become highly proficient in French, both oral and written. 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. Check out What Does Being Immersed Really Mean?

Christian Education

Children who thrive in a spiritually nurturing, intellectually challenging, disciplined environment can access RVS’ Christian education programs in the communities of Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere. Located at R.J. Hawkey and Meadowbrook (Airdrie), Cochrane Christian Academy (Cochrane) and Prince of Peace (Chestermere) schools, these programs offer students the chance to complete Alberta’s programs of study in a Christian classroom environment with bible instruction.

Home Education

RVS offers a variety of Home Education options for students from Gr. 1 – 12 through its Rocky View Schools Community Learning Centre (RVSCLC) campuses in Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere. For Gr. 1 – 8, only traditional Home Education is provided and supervised. For Gr. 9, RVS offers traditional Home Education, as well as a limited Blended Home Education Program. Students registering prior to Sept. 30 may be eligible for supplementary funding. Students in Gr. 10 – 12 have access to a variety of online and print-based programs facilitated by teachers.

weConnect

Middle and high school students wanting greater access, choice and flexibility in programming through their local school achieve so via “weConnect.” weConnect classrooms allow students to connect with learners and teachers at other school sites through the use of a variety of technologies, such as Moodle, e-mail and wikis. It also gives them the opportunity to enrol in courses that are not available at their home school or that do not fit into their timetables.

Knowledge and Employability

Beginning in Gr. 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.

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 who are excelling in one or more subject areas.
Off-Campus Education

RVS offers an extensive off-campus education program, which includes registered apprenticeship, work experience, green certificate and cooperative education opportunities to all students in Gr. 7 – 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 students to explore different careers.

Outreach

Set in store-front locations in Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere, RVS’ Outreach programs are housed under Rocky View Schools’ Community Learning Centres (RVSCLC). 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-confidence and a positive attitude to learning.

Mechanics Training Centre

Since 2000, RVS has facilitated a partnership with a local car dealership to provide education to high school students interested in the trade of Automotive Mechanics. The program is offered through the RVSCLC and operates out of Cam Clark Ford in Airdrie. At the centre, students have the opportunity to engage in real-life experiences by working on customer vehicles. Students from all RVS high schools have access to this program and those interested should contact the guidance counselor at their home school.

Building Futures

Building Futures is an immersive and unique program where Gr. 10 students learn how to build a house from the ground up. Thanks to the generous support of McKee Homes and Kingsmith Homes, students are able to build a house, while learning their core courses from teachers in re-purposed garages in the Willows in Cochrane and Cooper’s Crossing in Airdrie. The program allows for individualized instruction and an environment where students can pursue their passions. With instruction from qualified tradespeople, by the end of the year students will have built two complete houses in each community, while learning how to contribute to their community.

The Farm

The Farm is RVS’ newest program, delivering an engaging learning environment where Gr. 9 and 10 students can explore issues, tackle problems and design solutions to real-world problems in a context that is relevant to the Alberta way of life. Located just north of Airdrie on 14 acres of land, The Farm will allow students to complete their full curriculum, while learning to manage, market and operate an agricultural business venture. Students will learn the true meaning of “From Farm to Table,” and have opportunities to learn beyond the four walls of a classroom.

Dual Credit

Dual credit allows students in Gr. 11 and 12 to earn credits in high school, college or university at the same time. Current dual credit offerings include SAIT’s business faculty in Management 200 and the University of Calgary’s Department of Psychology. Students interested in these courses need to seek permission from their high school and be prepared for the expectations and rigors of a post-secondary course.
Supporting the needs of all learners

Before and After School Care
Families residing in Airdrie, Bragg Creek, Chestermere, Cochrane, Crossfield, Langdon and Springbank will want to inquire 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. For a complete listing of programs go to: http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/partners/after_school/before-after-school-programs.

Individualized Program Plans
Wherever needed, RVS teachers develop an Individualized Program Plan (IPP) to accommodate an individual student’s unique learning, social/emotional and behavioural needs within the classroom and school settings. Interventions provided are based on a continuum of supports through the child’s teacher, a team of specialists and/or external agencies. Check out Caden’s Cadence.

English Language Learning
RVS celebrates the diversity of all students by building on the strengths of each child. Programming for English Language Learners (ELL) is generally supported in the regular classroom through programs utilizing resources from Learn Alberta, including ELL Proficiency Benchmarks. Parents are an integral part of programming discussions and work in unison with teachers to understand the purpose and process of educational decision-making.

Social/Emotional Learning
As students’ emotional health can be directly tied to their academic success, RVS continues to provide a wide range of supports to enhance social and emotional well-being. Many schools employ programs that build upon a student’s self-awareness, self-management and relationship skills.

Mental Health Services
Each school has either a dedicated staff and/or access to jurisdictional supports to help meet the mental health needs of students. Through a partnership with Regional Collaborative Calgary and Area Service Delivery, regional psychology services also are available. Working with students, their parents and the school, these mental health workers help remove barriers to ensure students are ready to learn.

Stepping Stones to Mental Health
In partnership with Alberta Health Services and the community, RVS offers middle and high school students access to “Stepping Stones.” Through the program, schools offer an integrated on-site service delivery approach, including access to success coaches and in-class mental health programming.

Family School Liaison Workers
Available in communities throughout RVS, Family School Liaison Workers provide supports to parents, family members and schools to optimize the student’s learning experience. Assistance involves short-term support and referrals to community-based agencies.

Rehabilitation Services
RVS students receive support from speech language pathologists and occupational therapists, where necessary. These services are delivered on-site and in partnership with Alberta Health Services.
Comprehensive School Health

While each school community is unique, RVS endorses and employs the Comprehensive School Health (CSH) Framework for supporting improvements in students’ educational outcomes while addressing school health in a planned, integrated and holistic way. The framework follows the Alberta Healthy Eating Guidelines, which endorses that children have access to a nutrient-rich diet that includes iron, vitamin B12, zinc and omega-3 fatty acids. RVS works to have these offerings through the cafeteria, vending machines and food programs. To learn more, contact RVS’ Community Partner Program Coordinator Nikki Demyen at ndemyen@rockyview.ab.ca.

Healthy Eating Initiative

Under the umbrella of the CSH Framework, over the past decade, RVS has been working with the Health Promoting Schools (HPS) Initiative and Alberta Health Services (AHS) to align and integrate sound nutritional practices. As a result, schools are focused on providing healthy food choices. A primary aim is to remove foods high in sodium, sugar and saturated fats. Through partnerships with AHS, HPS and the Joint Consortium for School Health, RVS has made significant progress toward the support of healthier eating in schools. Community partnerships also have emerged across the jurisdiction.

Food for Thought

With support from Alberta Education’s School Nutrition Program Grant and national not-for-profit organizations such as Breakfast Clubs of Canada, President’s Choice Children’s Charity and community partners like food banks, Food for Thought provides students with a nutritious breakfast, lunch and/or snacks to help them concentrate and improve their ability to learn. RVS applauds the Airdrie Rotary, Centraline Energy, COBS Bread, the Airdrie Food Bank, the Cochrane Lions Club, Costco, the Cochrane Food Bank & Activettes, the Chestermere Food Bank, Quest Orthodontics, Airdrie Superstore and Sobeys for their ongoing support of the program.

Physical Literacy

RVS collaborates with teachers, leaders and professionals across the jurisdiction to design engaging learning experiences that bring wellness to life. Schools employ creative approaches to wellness, such as whole school challenges, river walks, garden clubs, active living days and more. Partnerships such as Jumpstart and the team from Ever Active Schools to play a helpful role, either by providing grants for students to participate in neighbourhood sports or by curating a giant list of wellness resources that teachers can draw from. Helping students to build healthy habits at a young age is a primary goal of the program. For more information, contact RVS Learning Specialist Sara Martin at saramartin@rockyview.ab.ca.

Schools have a wide variety of activities to welcome new and returning students to the 2019/20 school year. See full details on pages 19 – 23.
It’s fun to compare your six-foot tall 16-year old with that little height mark you put on the wall when he was two. Measuring growth as a learner is a little more challenging than a pencil mark on the wall, but students and parents alike share the same keen interest in being able to see growth.

Communication of Student Learning

RVS’ Communication of Student Learning (CoSL) process is designed to help students build knowledge of themselves as learners, while capturing their proficiency in demonstrating learner outcomes and facilitating conversations about the next steps on the student’s learning journey. It is a comprehensive strategy based on current assessment research. CoSL includes: Goal-Setting, Three-Way/Triad Conferences, Student Portfolios, PowerSchool Public Portal and Report Cards.

Goal-Setting

Learner goal-setting is a shared activity between students, teachers and parents. Proven to boost both achievement and confidence in one’s ability, this collaborative activity helps students understand where they are in their learning journey and the strategies required to move forward successfully.

Three-Way/Triad Conferences

Parent/teacher/student conferences are scheduled periodically throughout the year to review a student’s progress to date and set goals for the next steps of the learning journey. The frequency and format for scheduled conferences varies, depending on grade level and community. Parents also may schedule a conference with their child’s teacher at other times of the year to learn of their child’s progress as a learner.

Student Portfolios

Student portfolios gather evidence of student learning in one physical and/or online space. It is a place for students to select, organize and reflect on their learning. For beginning learners, there may be physical artifacts of learning, such as writing samples, essays and works of art. As they advance, learners begin to collect a digital archive of their learning. This may be a video of a beginning reader reading aloud, or a video production by a middle school student communicating original understanding of a world conflict. This gives students, teachers and parents numerous examples of the learning that has taken place to help them determine what steps are needed to further skill development.

PowerSchool Public Portal

An important component of CoSL for parents and students is RVS’ PowerSchool Public Portal – a window where parents and students can view ongoing learning progress. To access the portal, parents must first set up an account via a username and password. After the account is set up, the school will provide a unique ID for each student to link to the parent account. If students are in K – Gr. 6, progress is best viewed via the computer. If students are in Gr. 7 – 12, there is an app that can be downloaded to a smart phone (the app does not match how RVS reports on achievement for K – Gr. 6 students). The goal is to ensure parents don’t have to wait for report cards to know how their child is doing, rather they can share the learning journey with their child throughout the year.

Report Cards

Finally, at various times of the year, depending on your child’s school, parents will receive a report card, which provides a snapshot of their child’s learning. Report cards outline a student’s academic achievement toward the outcomes specified in Alberta’s programs of study. It also provides a summary report of how well a student is developing learner competencies – the skills needed to be an independent lifelong learner. RVS is moving to a Real-Time Reporting structure. Be sure to check out this new process on page 11.

To learn more about RVS’ Communication of Student Learning Initiative go to: http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/home/21stC/assessing.
This fall, 20 schools serving students from Kindergarten to Gr. 8/9 will prototype Real-Time Reporting (RTR), which promotes continuous, transparent and evidence-informed student assessment practices.

**Prototyping RTR – Year 2**

In 2018/19, 11 schools across five areas in the jurisdiction were selected to prototype RTR, which provides parents and students with ongoing feedback throughout the year. Nine additional schools have elected to participate in Year 2 of the cohort, which also aims to investigate how RTR can better inform teacher practice while providing timely performance information to parents and students.

**What does RTR look like?**

- Teachers assess a student's level of understanding of curricular outcomes/learning targets.
- Students have the entire year to learn the curricular outcomes, which supports the long-range development of a learner.
- Evidence of student learning is continuously demonstrated through both PowerSchool's Public Portal and myBlueprint, a student-driven online portfolio.
- One summary report card will be published in June, as opposed to every 90 days like a traditional report card.
- Teachers can use early assessment results to improve instruction strategies and student learning.
- Based on feedback during Year 1 of the prototype, RVS made significant changes to what users will see in PowerSchool.

**Where did report cards go?**

Schools prototyping RTR have eliminated the practice of issuing physical report cards three times a year. Instead, a real-time assessment summary will be accessible to parents and students all-year round via the PowerSchool Public Portal. Parents can access a digital version of this summary by logging into PowerSchool and clicking on the “Standards Grades” tab. Printed report cards will be issued once a year, at the end of June.

**What is myBlueprint?**

myBlueprint online portfolios engage students in the process of learning and self-discovery. Students can use their portfolios to set goals, reflect on their abilities, interests and passions and document what they discover about themselves using pictures, videos, audio and/or journals. A stream of posts allows family members to view the student’s classroom activity and comment on their progress.

**How can parents support their child?**

Parents can gain deep insights into their child’s learning by regularly reviewing both the myBlueprint portfolio and the real-time assessment summary in PowerSchool. Parents also are encouraged to support the concept of risk-taking and mistake making at home by asking questions like:

- What mistakes did you make today?
- How did you grow from them?
- What learning targets are you currently struggling with and what support do you need to be successful?
- What would you do differently if you were to complete that project again?
- Where are you now and how will you improve?

**Accessing PowerSchool’s Public Portal**

Parents with an existing PowerSchool account can access the Public Portal using the same login credentials at [https://ps.rockyview.ab.ca/public](https://ps.rockyview.ab.ca/public). Schools also will be sending out letters in September with instructions on how to create an account and view assessment information.

**Accessing myBlueprint**

Families of students in K – Gr. 6 will receive an account invitation via e-mail. Families with students in Gr. 7 – 9 will receive a letter from schools with instructions on how to create a parent account.

Parents of participating schools will receive a RTR parent guide from their school in the fall.
Registering Your Student

Although registration is ongoing up to the first day of school, pre-registration helps parents and children make a successful transition and allows schools to effectively plan for the upcoming school year. For the 2019/20 school year, RVS will accept children entering Kindergarten who will be five years old on or before the last day of February 2020. Students who are six years of age on Sept. 1, 2019, will be admitted to Gr. 1.

Students new to the jurisdiction should register for their designated school through RVS’ online eRegistration system, SchoolEngage. School designations and grade configurations are accessible on RVS’ website under Schools. If you are unsure of your child’s designated school, call 403.945.4125.

When registering your child, 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 or permanent landed immigrant/residence confirmation documentation;
- Proof of the child’s address. Documents accepted are bill of sale, utility bill or lease agreement;
- House number and street address, if student lives in a town or city or 911 address, if student lives on a farm or an acreage;
- Home, cell and business telephone numbers; e-mail if available;
- Notification of special medical conditions or medications for the child;
- Alberta Health Care Card number;
- Caregiver name, if the child is in care of an adult other than parent/guardian for part of day;
- Name and address of child’s previous school (applies to students moving into the system);
- A copy of the child’s most recent report card, if applicable;
- A copy of the child’s Individual Program Plan (IPP), if applicable; and
- A copy of custody documents, if applicable.

Please note that all schools with half-day Kindergarten programs will place children in a.m./p.m. classes, based on circumstances outlined by parents during the registration process.

School Fees

School fees for each school are listed on the school’s public website under School/School Fees.

School Supplies

- School supplies for students in K – Gr. 4 are supplied by schools
- Lists of school supplies needed for Gr. 5 – 12 are posted to RVS’ website at: http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/registration/schoolsupplies.
Register From Home!

As a new parent to RVS, how do I access SchoolEngage?

New parents can create an account and register their child via: https://rockyview.schoolengage.ca. This link is posted on RVS’ website under Schools.

How do I access SchoolEngage from the PowerSchool Parent Portal?

It is important that all existing RVS parents use their PowerSchool Parent Portal accounts to access the online registration system. Once you are logged into the Parent Portal, the link to SchoolEngage is available on the left-hand menu. You must be logged in as the parent/guardian, not a student, to see the link.

Can I save my information and complete my registration later?

Yes, the system allows you to save your progress. When you are ready to continue, simply return to the form and resume editing. Forms that are in progress will display as “New.”

I submitted my registration form, can I edit or delete it?

You can edit your registration form after it has been submitted if it has not yet been approved by the school. A previously submitted form that has been edited does not need to be resubmitted, as changes will be visible to the school immediately upon saving. However, once a form has been submitted, it cannot be deleted.

How do I submit my documents (e.g. birth certificate)?

SchoolEngage allows you to attach files to your application. If you do not have a scanner, you can take a photo of your document and upload it to the system.

Can I register for bus service at the same time?

Yes, but you must already be set up within the PowerSchool Parent Portal. SchoolEngage allows for parents to register their child for school and transportation services. For a step-by-step guide on registering your child via SchoolEngage for transportation services go to: http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/transportation/busservices.

Can I register online for a school out of my attendance area?

Parents wanting their child to attend a school other than their designated school will be required to manually complete an Out-of-Attendance Area application form for consideration. The application form is available on the RVS public website under Schools at: https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/registration.

Is SchoolEngage accessible via the PowerSchool app?

Unfortunately, the PowerSchool app does not support the online registration system. Parents can access SchoolEngage via a web browser on a phone or computer.

Can I still register in person?

Yes, registration can take place at RVS’ Education Centre at 2651 Chinook Winds Drive SW, Airdrie or at your designated school during the regular school year. Staff will assist you with completing the online registration form. Be sure to bring all related documentation (e.g. birth certificate, proof of residence etc.). Over the summer months, parents can register their child at RVS’ Education Centre. If you are unsure about your child’s designated school, please call 403.945.4125.

Need help?

For assistance with online registration, call 403.945.4115. A Parent User Guide with detailed information on how to use the online registration system also is available on the SchoolEngage website.
2019/20 Bell Times

Bell times are reviewed each spring and are subject to changes. Bell times employed for the 2019/20 school year are as listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Start a.m.</th>
<th>End M–Th/p.m.</th>
<th>End Fri p.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. E. Bowers</td>
<td>8:10</td>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banded Peak</td>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>2:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bearspaw</td>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>2:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beiseker</td>
<td>8:40</td>
<td>3:25</td>
<td>1:34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bert Church</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>3:39</td>
<td>2:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bow Valley</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>3:40</td>
<td>1:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.W. Perry</td>
<td>8:10</td>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestermere High</td>
<td>9:05</td>
<td>3:39</td>
<td>2:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestermere Middle</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>2:40</td>
<td>1:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochrane Christian Academy</td>
<td>8:05</td>
<td>2:20</td>
<td>2:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochrane High</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>3:40</td>
<td>1:17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooper’s Crossing</td>
<td>8:10</td>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossfield Elementary</td>
<td>8:40</td>
<td>3:25</td>
<td>1:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Lake</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>2:25</td>
<td>12:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>École Airdrie Middle</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>École Edwards</td>
<td>9:05</td>
<td>3:35</td>
<td>2:05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elbow Valley</td>
<td>8:42</td>
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<td>1:55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Barrett</td>
<td>9:00</td>
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<td>1:35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fireside</td>
<td>8:05</td>
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<td>2:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>George McDougall</td>
<td>9:00</td>
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<td>2:05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenbow</td>
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<td>2:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heloise Lorimer</td>
<td>9:00</td>
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<td>1:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herons Crossing</td>
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<td>1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indus</td>
<td>8:50</td>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>1:00</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Start a.m.</th>
<th>End M–Th/p.m.</th>
<th>End Fri p.m.</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Kathryn</td>
<td>8:35</td>
<td>3:08</td>
<td>2:07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Langdon</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>1:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manachaban</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>3:40</td>
<td>1:17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meadowbrook</td>
<td>8:10</td>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>1:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milford</td>
<td>8:05</td>
<td>2:20</td>
<td>2:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muriel Clayton</td>
<td>8:55</td>
<td>3:35</td>
<td>1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northcott Prairie</td>
<td>8:10</td>
<td>2:23</td>
<td>2:23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooper’s Crossing Campus (K-1)</td>
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<td>2:23</td>
<td>2:23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herons Crossing Campus (Gr. 2-4)</td>
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<td>Muriel Clayton Campus (Gr. 5-6)</td>
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<td>3:08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nose Creek</td>
<td>8:10</td>
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<td>1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Waters</td>
<td>8:12</td>
<td>2:47</td>
<td>1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prince of Peace</td>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>3:10</td>
<td>1:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>R.J. Hawkey</td>
<td>8:10</td>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>1:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Creek</td>
<td>8:10</td>
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<td>1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ralph McCall</td>
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<td>1:15</td>
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<td>RancheView</td>
<td>8:05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Thompson</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>2:30</td>
<td>1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Springbank High</td>
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<td>2:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Springbank Middle</td>
<td>8:42</td>
<td>3:10</td>
<td>1:55</td>
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<tr>
<td>W.G. Murdoch</td>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>3:27</td>
<td>1:41</td>
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<tr>
<td>W.H. Croxford</td>
<td>9:00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windsong Heights</td>
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<td>1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westbrook</td>
<td>8:40</td>
<td>3:22</td>
<td>1:42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Northcott’s bell times will be adjusted upon the school’s opening in 2020.
School bus services

Transportation Services

2019/20 Services

RVS operates one of the largest student transportation systems in Alberta. Bus services are available for students attending their designated school. Urban bus stops are located at a minimum of 1.5 kilometres from the school for K – Gr. 7 students and two kilometres for Gr. 8 – 12 students. Bus stops in rural communities are centrally located, approximately 800 metres apart.

Students who rode the school bus during the 2018/19 school year and are in possession of an electronic bus pass will receive a re-enrolment application via e-mail to confirm their need for transportation for the 2019/20 school year. Families must complete the application prior to the end of June, or service will be cancelled.

Effective September 2019, all registered students must ride their assigned route and be in possession of their electronic bus pass in order to board the bus. Replacement bus passes and bus pass pouches are available for purchase via SchoolEngage.

Non-Resident Application

RVS students who reside outside of the jurisdiction’s boundary must manually complete a Non-Resident Application for bus service. Please e-mail transportation@rockyview.ab.ca to request a form.

First Ride Program

RVS is pleased to offer first time riders a rewarding bus experience by participating in its “First Ride Program”, a school bus safety program. This FREE program is provided by the jurisdiction in partnership with its bus contractors, to educate parents and children on how to ride the school bus safely.

Dates and times: Aug. 13 (rural students) and Aug. 14 and 15, 2019 (urban students) at 6:30 p.m. (tentative). Please e-mail firstride@rockyview.ab.ca to register.

2019/20 Transportation Fees

Each spring, the Board reviews and approves student transportation fees, which are subject to change. There is no charge for Kindergarten students or students in Gr. 1 – 12 who reside 2.4 kilometres or more from their designated school. Transportation fees for the 2019/20 school year are as listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>per student (first two students in a family)</th>
<th>per student (remaining students 3+)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living less than 2.4 km from their designated school</td>
<td>$308</td>
<td>$154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transported to a school other than their designate school</td>
<td>$308</td>
<td>$154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requiring additional stop in a.m., p.m., or both</td>
<td>$154</td>
<td>$77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-Resident Students

Beiseker, Kathryn, Indus, Westbrook, Crossfield or W.G. Murdoch $308 $154

Accessing a school bus inside RVS boundaries $625 $625

Accessing a bus outside the boundaries of RVS $1,250 $1,250

Rural transportation duplication service fee. Applicable fee charged for transportation to both residences.

Register for Bus Services

Students new to RVS must register:

- Online via SchoolEngage at: [https://rockyview.schoolengage.ca](https://rockyview.schoolengage.ca) or;
- In person through RVS’ Education Centre in Airdrie – you’ll be encouraged to use a public computer to register via SchoolEngage, but we’ll be there to help you!

Existing students new to RVS’ transportation system must register:

- Via SchoolEngage accessible through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](https://rockyview.schoolengage.ca)
- For technical support, please e-mail transportation@rockyview.ab.ca

Get real-time, up-to-date information regarding bus routes at the push of a button via a new late bus app by Bus Status. The app is available for both Apple and Android devices. Download it today!

Opening Day Bulletin
At the helm of RVS’ learning environments is an eight-member Board of Trustees. Locally-elected, Board members perform a wide range of duties including setting directions, allocating resources, as well as monitoring, evaluating and reporting student and organizational achievements.

To ensure effective decisions are made, Trustees regularly attend school council meetings and encourage involvement and input from school staff and other stakeholders on key educational issues and the implementation of RVS’ Four Year Education Plan.

Public members wanting to learn more about the Board and its operations are invited to attend Board meetings held the first and third Thursday of every month or visit the Trustees’ website at: http://trustees.rockyview.ab.ca.

**Contact your trustee**

Ward 1: Shali Baziuk ................. 403.850.5758
Ward 2: Patty Sproule ................. 403.936.2385
Ward 3: Melyssa Bowen ............... 403.835.6673
Ward 3/Board Chair: Todd Brand ....... 403.608.2710
Ward 3: Jim Forrest .................... 587.216.3224
Ward 4: Norma Lang ................. 403.921.0303
Ward 5: Judi Hunter ................. 403.888.1831
Ward 6/Vice Chair: Fiona Gilbert .... 403.200.8968

Driving forward RVS’ innovative learning environments is a five-member Executive team, along with approximately 250 Education Centre staff. This team of innovative risk-takers provides support to approximately 2,250 staff members in 54 schools who attend to the academic, social, emotional and behavioural needs of over 25,000 students. Questions relating to leadership, instruction, professional learning, student transportation, human resources, communication, capital planning and facility maintenance are welcome.

Approximately 2,500 staff work together to help students learn and grow. With energy and enthusiasm, staff instills a passion for learning in students – and the skills crucial to success.

Over the past decade, staff members across the jurisdiction have embraced the challenge to transform RVS into an innovative learning environment by acknowledging their roles as leaders and learners. Through a responsive, adaptive and agile model of support, teachers have modified their instructional practices to emphasize literacy, numeracy and competency development, such as critical thinking and communication.

Outside of modeling their willingness to embrace change, all staff members are honing their skills in the use of assistive technologies, digital content, social media and production software. Through these efforts, RVS’ students now are afforded the ability to access customized learning opportunities, which are accessible “any time, any place, any path, any pace.”

In short, RVS staff is committed to ensuring ALL RVS students succeed in our new global communities.
Area directors

To serve as a key support for parents contacting the Education Centre, RVS employs an area director structure. Although the first point of contact for parents is their child’s school, parents needing information or assistance from the Education Centre are asked to call:

**Airdrie Area**
403.945.4014
School communities in Airdrie

**North and East Area**
403.945.4019
School communities including the Airdrie Tri-Site, Chestermere, Crossfield, Beiseker, Indus, Kathryn and Langdon

**West Area**
403.945.4023
School communities in Bragg Creek, Bearspaw, Cochrane, Springbank and Westbrook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Until Aug. 15, 2019</th>
<th>As of Aug. 15, 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ira Stroh</td>
<td>John Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Rhodes</td>
<td>Garry Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manny Ferreirinha</td>
<td>Sandy McDuffe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Our directors**

Director of Communications  
403.945.4012

Director of Facility Planning  
403.945.4010

Director of Finance  
403.945.4040

Director of Human Resources  
403.945.4075

Director of Learning Services  
403.945.4037

Director of Learning Support Services  
403.945.4025

Director of Maintenance  
403.945.4064

Director of Schools Airdrie Schools  
403.945.4014

Director of Schools North & East Schools  
403.945.4019

Director of Schools West Schools  
403.945.4023

Director of Technology for Learning  
403.945.4024

Director of Transportation  
403.945.4106
School Opening Day Activities

Please note: opening week daily office hours for each school may vary. Please check school websites for details.

Airdrie School Activities

A.E. Bowers Elementary School (K – Gr. 4/K – Gr. 5*)
Principal: Barb Holden
Phone: 403.948.4511
Office opens:
Aug. 22, 2019, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
A.E. Bowers Elementary will give students and their parents an opportunity to take a ‘Sneak Peek’ at the school before classes resume! Families of students in Gr. 1 – 5 can visit Aug. 30, 2019, between 12 – 1 p.m., and tour classrooms, find designated entry doors and say hello to the teachers! Kindergarten families can drop by the school Sept. 3, 2019, 9 – 11 a.m. and 12 – 2 p.m.

Bert Church High School (Gr. 9 – 12)
Principal: Ryan Reed
Phone: 403.948.3800
Office opens:
Aug. 23, 2019, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
To welcome Gr. 9 students to the school, Bert Church will host a Link Crew Welcome, BBQ lunch and mini-classes, Sept. 3, 2019. All students will be treated to a Welcome Back Breakfast, Sept. 6, 2019.

C.W. Perry School (Gr. 5 – 8)
Principal: Rob Kimura
587.775.3523
Office opens:
Aug. 20, 2019, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
C.W. Perry School will welcome back new and returning students with a series of activities that will take place in homeroom classes. A Welcome Back Assembly also is planned for the first week of school. Details will be communicated in early September.

Cooper’s Crossing School (K – Gr. 5/PIP)
Principal: ToddHenning
Phone: 403.945.4147
Office opens:
Aug. 21, 2019, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
In preparation for the new school year, students and their families are invited to an Open House, Aug. 29, 2019, 3 – 5:30 p.m. Meet the teachers, discover classrooms and get important back-to-school information.

École Airdrie Middle (Gr. 6 – 8/Gr. 6 – 8*)
Principal: Cathy Ziegler
Phone: 403.948.5969
Office opens:
Aug. 19, 2019, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
École Airdrie Middle invites students and parents to its Open House and Welcome Back BBQ, Aug. 30, 2019, 12 – 1 p.m. Meet the staff, tour the school and enjoy a BBQ with members of the school community.

École Edwards Elementary (K – Gr. 5/K – Gr. 5*)
Principal: Nancy Dutchik
Phone: 403.948.5922
Office opens:
Aug. 22, 2019, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
École Edwards’ Open House, Aug. 30, 2019, 9 – 11 a.m., is an opportunity for students and their parents to meet the teachers, tour classrooms and share in the excitement of the new school year. Snacks and refreshments will be served. Please note, students will receive a postcard in late August introducing their new teacher.

George McDougall High School (Gr. 9 – 12/Gr. 9 – 12*)
Principal: Laurie Johnston
Phone: 403.948.5935
Office opens:
Aug. 22, 2019, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
In partnership with École Airdrie Middle School and École Edwards Elementary, George McDougall High School will host a Welcome Back BBQ, Aug. 30, 2019, 12 – 1 p.m.

Heloise Lorimer School (K – Gr. 5)
Principal: Brenda Valerio
Phone: 403.945.4135
Office opens:
Aug. 21, 2019, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Heloise Lorimer will host an Open House, Sept. 3, 2019, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. New and returning families will have an opportunity to meet the staff and check out their classrooms! Regular classes will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Herons Crossing School (K – Gr. 7)
Principal: Andrea Craigie
Phone: 403.948.2330
Office opens:
Aug. 28, 2019, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Herons Crossing will host an Open House, Aug. 28, 2019, 12 – 1 p.m. Students and their families are invited to visit the school, tour classrooms and meet staff and teachers before regular classes begin.

Meadowbrook School (Gr. 6 – 8/Gr. 6 – 8**)  
Principal: Greg Rankin
Phone: 403.948.5656
Office opens:
Aug. 26, 2019, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
To welcome new and returning students to Meadowbrook, the school will host its annual Welcome Back Breakfast. Juice and muffins will be provided to students as they arrive at the school. There also will be a variety of additional welcome week activities happening throughout the school; further details will be sent to parents and posted on the school’s website in August.

Muriel Clayton Middle School (Gr. 5 – 8)
Principal: Scott Bloxham
Phone: 403.948.2445
Office opens:
Aug. 21, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Students and their parents are invited to drop by the school, Aug. 30, 2019, between 10 – 11 a.m. to meet the staff, visit classrooms, get reacquainted with old friends and meet new ones!
## School Opening Day Activities

**Please note:** opening week daily office hours for each school may vary. Please check school websites for details.

### Northcott Prairie School (K – Gr. 6)
**Principal:** Lindsay Adams  
**Phone:** 403.945.4155

**Office opens:**  
Aug. 20, 2019, location and hours TBA

Northcott Prairie School has three Meet the Teacher events planned for Aug. 29, 2019:
- **Kindergarten – Gr. 1:** Cooper's Crossing, 9 – 9:45 a.m.
- **Gr. 2 – 4:** Herons Crossing School, 10 – 10:45 a.m.
- **Gr. 5 – 6:** Muriel Clayton Middle School, 11 – 11:45 a.m.

After the Meet the Teacher events, students and their parents are invited to attend a Community BBQ, which will be held at Muriel Clayton, 12 – 1:15 p.m.

### Nose Creek Elementary School (K – Gr. 4)
**Principal:** Suzanne Martin  
**Phone:** 403.945.1001

**Office opens:**  
Aug. 19, 2019, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

To celebrate the start of the new school year, Nose Creek will be hosting an Open House, Aug. 30, 2019, 10 – 11 a.m. Students and parents are encouraged to tour classrooms and meet the teachers.

### R.J. Hawkey Elementary School (K – Gr. 5/K – Gr. 5**/PIP)
**Principal:** Jason Billings  
**Phone:** 403.948.3939

**Office opens:**  
Aug. 28, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

R.J. Hawkey will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast for staff, students and parents, Aug. 29, 2019. Feel free to stop by, say hello and fill your belly with fresh flapjacks and sweet maple syrup!

### Ralph McCall School (K – Gr. 4)
**Acting Principal:** Nikki Tysowski  
**Phone:** 403.948.7030

**Office opens:**  
Aug. 21, 2019, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Ralph McCall will welcome students and parents back to school with its annual Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast, Aug. 30, 2019, 8:30 – 10 a.m. Guests will have the opportunity to walk off those flapjacks by touring school and meeting the teachers between 9 – 11 a.m.

### W.H. Croxford School (Gr. 9 – 12)
**Principal:** Jeff Smith  
**Phone:** 587.775.3521

**Office opens:**  
Aug. 27, 2019, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

To help with the transition to high school, W.H. Croxford’s Link Crew Leaders will welcome Gr. 9 students, Sept. 3, 2019, with various fun activities. All students will have the opportunity to meet with their Connect Teacher, Sept. 4, 2019, to learn more about what to expect for the upcoming school year. The regular class schedule for all students will begin Sept. 5, 2019.

### Windsong Heights School (K – Gr. 8)
**Principal:** Penny Beaudry  
**Phone:** 403.945.4149

**Office opens:**  
Aug. 21, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Windsong Heights will welcome students back to school with a Pancake Breakfast, Aug. 30, 2019, 9 – 10:30 a.m. Breakfast will be followed by an Open House, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. This is a great opportunity for students to meet their teachers, visit their classrooms and mingle with friends!

### Community Learning Centre Airdrie Campus (Gr. 1 – 12)
**Principal:** Murray Arnold  
**Phone:** 403.948.4360

**Office opens:**  
Aug. 26, 2019, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Each RVSCCLC campus (Cochrane, Airdrie and Chestermere) will host its own welcome back activities in the first week of September. Please check the RVSCCLC’s website at the end of August for details!

### Bearspaw School Activities

#### Bearspaw School (K – Gr. 8)
**Principal:** Brad Walls  
**Phone:** 403.239.9607

**Office opens:**  
Aug. 21, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Bearspaw School will host a New Family Orientation, Aug. 30, 2019, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Tours and an information session will be offered to help students become more familiar with their new school. That same day, all families are invited to attend an Open House, 12 – 2 p.m. where they can meet their teachers and tour the school!

#### Beiseker/Kathyrn School Activities

#### Beiseker Community School (K – Gr. 12)
**Principal:** Barry Anderson  
**Phone:** 403.947.3883

**Office opens:**  
Aug. 26, 2019, 8:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join in on the fun, Sept. 12, 2019, 5 – 7 p.m. when Beiseker Community School hosts its Welcome Back BBQ. As in years past, Community Links will be in attendance and there will be free burgers for all to enjoy!

#### Kathyrn School (K – Gr. 8)
**Principal:** David Banderk  
**Phone:** 403.935.4291

**Office opens:**  
Aug. 22, 2019, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

To start the school year off right, students, parents and alumni are invited to Kathryn School’s annual Welcome Back BBQ, Sept. 19, 2019, 4:30 p.m. Enjoy food, fun and getting reacquainted with friends!
**Bragg Creek School Activities**

**Banded Peak School (K – Gr. 8)**
Principal: Simon Pols
Phone: 403.949.2292
Office opens: Aug. 22, 2019, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Rocky Raccoon will be onsite, Sept. 3, 2019, to welcome students and their families and pose for pictures! Once classes begin at 8:30 a.m., parents can stay and enjoy coffee and muffins, courtesy of the Parent Council. Parents also are reminded of the Sept. 3 and 4, 2019, staggered entry dates for Kindergarten students.

**Chestermere School Activities**

**Chestermere High School (Gr. 10 – 12)**
Principal: Chris Robertson
Phone: 403.272.8868
Office opens: Aug. 23, 2019, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Chestermere High has a variety of activities planned for Sept. 3, 2019, to welcome incoming Gr. 10 students. Team-building activities, motivational speeches, meet and greets with teachers and a BBQ lunch will help students connect and build excitement for the year ahead!

**Chestermere Lake Middle School (Gr. 7 – 9/Gr. 7 -9*)**
Principal: Scott Woodward
Phone: 403.273.1343
Office opens: Aug. 26, 2019, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Chestermere Lake Middle School will open its doors between 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Aug. 30, 2019, so that parents and students can tour the school before classes resume Sept. 3, 2019. A Welcome Back Breakfast will be hosted early in the school year. Details will be released once the date has been finalized.

**East Lake School (K – Gr. 6/K – Gr. 6*/PIP)**
Principal: Jordan Fenton
Phone: 403.248.1091
Office opens: Aug. 27, 2019, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
On the first day of school, Sept. 3, 2019, students will meet their teachers in designated areas. Kindergarten and Gr. 1 students will convene in the gym and Gr. 2 – 6 students will come together on the field at the back of the school. A Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 13, 2019. More information will be sent home with students in the first week of school.

**Indus School (K – Gr. 9)**
Principal: Chael Wyper
Phone: 403.936.5855
Office opens: Aug. 19, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
To start the school year off right, Indus School will hold a morning assembly, Sept. 3, 2019. Administration will welcome students, introduce new staff and set the stage for what’s to come in 2019/20! Indus’ Parent Council has plans to host a Back-to-School BBQ – stay tuned for additional details!

**Langdon School (K – Gr. 9)**
Principal: Tammy Rahn
Phone: 403.936.4579
Office opens: Aug. 28, 2019, 7:40 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Langdon School will host an Open House as well as an Evening Get-Together to welcome new and returning families. Details will be announced at the end of August. Please check the school’s website for updates.

**Prairie Waters Elementary School (K – Gr. 6)**
Principal: Michelle Doz
Phone: 403.285.6969
Office opens: Aug. 21, 2019, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Prairie Waters will welcome Kindergarten students and their parents with an Open House, Aug. 29, 2019, 12 – 1 p.m. Students in Gr. 1 – 6 and their parents are invited to attend the Elementary Open House, Aug. 30, 2019, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran School (K – Gr. 9**)**
Principal: Shawna Neis
Phone: 403.285.2288
Office opens: Aug. 26, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Prince of Peace has many events planned to welcome back its school community. Families are welcome to drop-in, Aug. 29, 2019, 2 – 3:30 p.m., to tour classrooms and meet the teachers. Classes will resume Sept. 3, 2019, with an Opening Day Chapel Assembly at 8:40 a.m. Parents are invited to attend and stay for refreshments afterwards. A Welcome Back Fall Fair/Potluck is planned for Sept. 12, 2019. Parents are reminded to look for a summer mail-out to go out in July that contains more information.

**Rainbow Creek Elementary School (K – Gr. 6)**
Principal: Dawn Rife
Phone: 403.273.8129
Office opens: Aug. 20, 2019, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Rainbow Creek invites all new and returning families to its Welcome to School event, Sept. 3, 2019, 8 – 8:30 a.m. A Meet the Teacher evening will take place Sept. 5, 2019 – parents are asked to refer to the school’s website for more details. Kindergarten parents also are reminded that details about staggered entry (Sept. 3 and Sept. 4, 2019) have already been sent out.

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* French Immersion Programming ** Christian Programming PIP – Preschool Intervention Program
School Opening Day Activities

Please note: opening week daily office hours for each school may vary. Please check school websites for details.

Sarah Thompson School (K – Gr. 5)
Principal: Ryan Siemens
Phone: 403.936.6141
Office opens:
Aug. 19, 2019, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
The staff at Sarah Thompson look forward to welcoming new and returning families in September! The school will host an Open House, Aug. 30, 2019, 12 – 1 p.m., as well as an annual Welcome Back BBQ, Sept. 13, 2019, 12 – 1 p.m. The BBQ is a great opportunity for students and their parents/guardians to mix, mingle and meet the teachers and staff!

Community Learning Centre Chestermere Campus (Gr. 1 – 12)
Principal: Murray Arnold
Phone: 403.235.0294
Office opens:
Aug. 26, 2019, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Each of the RVSCLC campuses (Cochrane, Airdrie and Chestermere) will host its own welcome back activities the first week of September. Please check the RVSCLC website at the end of August for details!

Cochrane Christian Academy (K – Gr. 8**)
Principal: Allan Elkin
Phone: 403.932.5177
Office opens:
Aug. 27, 2019, 12 – 3 p.m.
To welcome students back to school, Cochrane Christian will host a K – Gr. 8 Open House, Aug. 30, 2019, 12 – 2 p.m. Students and their families can tour the school, meet the teachers and catch up with friends!

Cochrane High School (Gr. 9 – 12/Gr. 9 – 12*)
Principal: Ed Polhill
Phone: 403.932.2542
Office opens:
Aug. 22, 2019, 12 – 4 p.m.
Cochrane High will host a Student Orientation for its new Gr. 9’s, Sept. 3, 2019, at 9 a.m. This orientation is aimed at helping students feel at ease with their exciting transition to high school.

Elizabeth Barrett Elementary School (K – Gr. 5/K – Gr. 5*/PIP)
Principal: Gerry Gaudet
Phone: 403.932.3151
Office opens:
Aug. 21, 2019, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Elizabeth Barrett Elementary has planned an Open House for students and their parents, Aug. 30, 2019, 10 – 11:30 a.m. To help the new Kindergartners and their parents feel at ease, a Kindergarten Orientation will be held Sept. 4, 2019. After drop-off, Sept. 4 and 5, 2019, a Boo Hoo Tea will be held for Kindergarten parents. Tissues will be provided!

Fireside School (K – Gr. 8)
Principal: Thomas Elbel
Phone: 403.932.4868
Office opens:
Aug. 20, 2019, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
In preparation for the new school year, Fireside School will host an Open House, Aug. 30, 2019, 9 – 11 a.m. Students and their parents can visit classrooms, tour the school and connect with teachers and staff who will be on-hand to answer questions.

Glenbow Elementary School (K – Gr. 5/K – Gr. 5*)
Principal: Fraser Montgomery
Phone: 403.932.4922
Office opens:
Aug. 21, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Glenbow Elementary will host an Open House Sneak Peek, Aug. 30, 2019, 1 – 2 p.m. and all students and parents are encouraged to attend. An e-mail will go out to parents about Kindergarten orientation, planned for Sept. 3, 2019, and staggered entry, Sept. 4 and 5, 2019. A Welcome Back Assembly will be held Sept. 6, 2019, and parents are welcome to attend.

Manachaban Middle School (Gr. 6 – 8/Gr. 6 – 8*)
Principal: Anne Kromm
Phone: 403.932.2215
Office opens:
Aug. 19, 2019, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Manachaban Middle School will welcome back both new and returning students with a variety of events in August and September! Students and their parents are invited to drop by the school, Aug. 30, 2019, between 9 – 11 a.m. for an Open House. A Meet the Teacher event is planned for Sept. 12, 2019, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., which will be followed by the school’s annual Welcome Back Breakfast, Sept. 13, 2019.
Go Warriors, go!
Mitford School (Gr. 6 – 8)
Principal: Peter Fultz
Phone: 403.932.4457
Office opens:
Aug. 27, 2019, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Mitford School will welcome all new and returning students and their families at an Open House, Aug. 30, 2019, 10 – 11 a.m. On Sept. 6, 2019, students will host a Spirit Day to get things rolling and a Welcome Back BBQ will be held, Sept. 11, 2019, from 5 – 7 p.m.

RancheView School (K – Gr. 8)
Principal: Sharon Cronin
Phone: 403.932.9811
Office opens:
Aug. 26, 2019, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
RancheView will host an Open House, Aug. 29, 2019, 1 – 2 p.m. Students and their families are invited to drop in to tour the school and the classrooms and find out who their child’s teacher will be!

Westbrook School (K – Gr. 8)
Principal: Christine Parker
Phone: 403.932.5443
Office opens:
Aug. 20, 2019, 8:15 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Classes will resume Sept. 3, 2019, for students in Gr. 1 – 8. A drop-in style Kindergarten Open House will take place Sept. 3, 2019. Parents are reminded of staggered starts for Kindergarten, with some students starting Sept. 5 and others starting Sept. 10, 2019. Westbrook also has a Welcome Back BBQ planned for Sept. 19, 2019, from 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Community Learning Centre Cochrane Campus (Gr. 1 – 12)
Principal: Murray Arnold
Phone: 403.932.6131
Office opens:
Aug. 26, 2019, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Each of the RVSLC campuses (Cochrane, Airdrie and Chestermere) will host its own welcome back activities the first week of September. Please check the RVSLC website at the end of August for details!

Crossfield School Activities

Crossfield Elementary School (K – Gr. 5)
Principal: Bob Rodgers
Phone: 403.946.5696
Office opens:
Aug. 12, 2019, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Crossfield Elementary will host a Meet the Teacher event, Aug. 30, 2019, 12 – 1 p.m. The fun will continue Sept. 4, 2019, as the school hosts a Meet and Greet BBQ in partnership with W.G. Murdoch School and the Town of Crossfield. The BBQ will take place from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the shared parking lot between the two schools. Kindergarten parents can expect to receive an e-mail over the summer regarding their Kindergarten orientation time, either on Sept. 4 or Sept. 5, 2019.

W.G. Murdoch School (Gr. 6 – 12)
Principal: Derek Keenan
Phone: 403.946.5665
Office opens:
Aug 22, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
W.G. Murdoch will welcome back new and returning students at its Meet the Staff BBQ, Sept. 4, 2019, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Join in the fun and meet other parents, students and the school staff!

Springbank School Activities

Elbow Valley Elementary School (K – Gr. 4/K – Gr. 4*)
Principal: Brendan Trinca
Phone: 403.242.1117
Office opens:
Aug. 19, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
École Elbow Valley will host an Open House for all students and their parents, Aug. 30, 2019, 1 – 2 p.m. Check out classrooms, meet the teachers and learn all about what the school has to offer!

Springbank Middle School (Gr. 5 – 8/Gr. 5 – 8*)
Principal: Darrell Lonsberry
Phone: 403.242.4456
Office opens:
Aug. 22, 2019, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Parents new to Springbank Middle are encouraged to attend an Orientation Session, Aug. 27, 2019, 1 p.m. (students are welcome to join). For Gr. 5 students and their parents, an informal orientation will be held, Aug. 30, 2019, from 1 – 2 p.m. Drop in, visit homerooms and meet the teachers! A Welcome Back Assembly for the whole school will take place the morning of Sept. 6, 2019, followed by a hot dog lunch and Spirit Day activities in the afternoon.

Springbank Community High School (Gr. 9 – 12/Gr. 9 – 12*)
Principal: Jeff Chalmers
Phone: 403.246.4771
Office opens:
Aug. 22, 2019, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
The guidance office will be open for timetable changes, Aug. 22 – 23, 2019, for Gr. 12 students, and Aug. 26 – 27, 2019, for Gr. 11 students. To welcome Gr. 9 and new students, an Orientation Day has been planned for Sept. 3, 2019. Students will be introduced to their new school, homeroom and leadership activities. Lunch will be provided. New Gr. 10 – 12 students will attend in the morning only but will still be provided lunch. The first day of classes for all students will be Sept. 4, 2019.

Please note: opening week daily office hours for each school may vary. Please check school websites for details.
RVS’ adult programs are delivered face-to-face, online and in partnership with other community agencies

Visit RVS ADULT LEARNING (RVSAL) at http://adultlearning.rockyview.ab.ca to register.

**Upcoming Classroom Courses**

Details/dates/locations are available on the website for:

- English Language Learning (ELL)
- Basic Adult Literacy
- Computer Basics
- Microsoft Excel – Beginner
- French – Beginner
- Spanish – Beginner and Intermediate
- Successful Retirement Strategies
- Acrylic Painting
- Foundational Adult Tutoring (Free)

**ED2GO Online Courses - Accessible 24/7**

Learn when you want, where you want...update your skills or learn something new!

Choose from hundreds of courses, such as:

- Using Social Media in Business
- Quickbooks
- Writing for ESL
- Creating WordPress websites
- Project Management Fundamentals
- Computer Skills for the Workplace
- Keyboarding
- Discover Digital Photography
- Blogging and Podcasting for Beginners
- Italian, Japanese and French
- Easy English 1, 2 and 3

**Family Literacy Programming – FREE!**

RVSAL is partnering with North Rocky View Community Links, the Airdrie Public Library and the Town of Cochrane to offer outreach family literacy programming:

- “Travelling Tales and Tunes” in Airdrie at: Luxstone Manor, Grace Baptist Church, A.E. Bowers, Herons Crossing and R.J. Hawkey schools. In rural areas at: Beiseker and Irricana libraries. Register through Community Links by calling 403.945.3900.

- “Newcomer Connections” in Cochrane. Register through Parent Link Cochrane at 403.851.2250.

*Tuition assistance is available for qualifying courses.*
Parents as learning partners

Meeting the needs of today’s learner requires the attention and participation of the entire community. Parents and community members are encouraged to play a role in RVS. Here are a few suggestions how:

Join a School Council!

School Councils play a vital role in RVS. At the school level, they help shape the delivery of educational services to students.

School Councils consists of:

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

RVS’ 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. In recognition of the valuable contributions school councils make, the Board has purchased a jurisdictional membership for councils to belong to the Alberta School Councils’ Association (ASCA) and provides financial support for some council members to attend the annual ASCA conference.

Join in the Dialogue

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 variety of communication tools to keep parents abreast of students’ progress. A student agenda, which arrives home in a child’s backpack or found online, is a common communication practice. So, too, is the distribution of weekly/monthly parent newsletters.

The use of the Internet and e-mail 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 conferences, usually held twice over the course of the school year. Numerous public events, such as welcome back BBQs, concerts, and award evenings, also are held annually to showcase the talents and success of students. Watch for these events to be shared through school websites and newsletters.

Of course, teachers and school administrators are only a phone call or e-mail 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, its website http://www.rockyview.ab.ca and a variety of weekly and bi-annual newsletters.
PowerSchool for parents

In RVS, we know parental involvement can have a huge impact on a student’s success. To help parents stay connected to their children’s learning progress, all parents can access RVS’ PowerSchool Parent Portal, a web-based, student information system. The parent portal is designed to provide parents with access to real-time information pertaining to grades, attendance and more, allowing them to be a part of their child’s learning on a day-to-day basis!

PowerSchool At-a-Glance
Supporting more than 10 million students in more than 65 countries, PowerSchool offers a collaborative environment for parents, teachers and students to work together. Through the online interface, teachers have easy access to student performance data that helps them to make timely strategic decisions, identify potential issues and take the appropriate actions to ensure students are performing to the best of their abilities.

PowerSchool Parent Portal
To help keep parents attuned to their child’s progress and to facilitate participation, parents have access to PowerSchool’s Parent Portal. The parent portal is designed to help parents and teachers communicate more freely and effectively, increasing student success. Personalized accounts provide parents with access to multiple sets of student data and enable them to find out what classes their children are in, how they did on last week’s project, student attendance, demographic information and more!

Connecting to PowerSchool’s Parent Portal
Secure and easy to use, parents need only an Internet connection and a username and password to access PowerSchool’s Parent Portal. Your registration password is available through each school. Be sure to follow the detailed instructions on how to create and sync a parent account with the corresponding student account(s). As students aren’t the only ones who want access to information any time and any place, PowerSchool also is compatible with iPhones, iPads and Androids through a free app, PowerSchool for Parents.

Parent Portal Features:
Once logged in, parents will have direct access to a wide variety of functions related to student progress. Some examples include:

- **Grades and Attendance** – View grades, absences and teacher comments from the current term.
- **E-mail Notification** – Choose the type of reports you wish to receive and the frequency (summary or detailed reports).
- **Teacher Comments** – Review teacher feedback on assignments and overall grades achieved.
- **Print Screen** – Print any screen for record-keeping purposes.
- **SchoolEngage** – A yearly demographic confirmation and transportation registration system.
- **School Messenger** – School messages.
- **Student Schedules** – Monitor your child’s attendance and see bell schedules.

Each school has the option to customize its parent portal to include functions that are age appropriate and will best serve the needs of its students. A comprehensive legend helps identify each function, making the portal easy to navigate.

To learn more about RVS’ PowerSchool Parent Portal visit: [http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/professional-learning/powerschool/powerschool-for-parents](http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/professional-learning/powerschool/powerschool-for-parents).
Connect with RVS

Website

RVS inspires a love of learning and community, by engaging all learners through meaningful and challenging experiences, preparing them to understand, adapt and successfully contribute to the changing global community. Our goal is to offer stimulating, flexible programming that makes learning relevant and exciting to today’s learner. Our foundation statements, school calendars, enrolments and Education Centre services can be found at http://www.rockyview.ab.ca.

RVS App

RVS’ app provides quick and easy access to a wealth of information about the jurisdiction – What’s New, Calendar, Careers, Schools, Blogs, Replay and much more – all in the palm of your hand! ‘Push notifications’ will allow immediate news updates to be communicated to users, especially useful for parents on school closure/inclement weather days. Available at the app store or Google Play for both iOS and Android devices!

Social Media

Connect with RVS on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, following @rvsed and the #rvsed hashtag.

Replay Newsletter

Replay is RVS’ weekly e-newsletter, distributed to staff, school councils and Trustees each Tuesday via e-mail. Recipients are encouraged to forward the e-mail on to friends and family members who also can subscribe to receive the e-newsletter. Staff is encouraged to share information about events and activities in their school as well as student and staff success stories. E-mail submission(s) to replay@rockyview.ab.ca before noon each Wednesday.

Ontrack

Ontrack is published in August and January each year to feature RVS’ school year Opening Day and the following year’s Advanced Registration activities.

Volunteer

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

Caring members of the community, of all ages and cultures, also are making an immense contribution to the children in RVS. In fact, this awareness and growing opportunities within schools have greatly increased non-parent volunteerism within 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, you can help children and youth gain confidence, acquire new skills and develop better peer relationships.
- As a tutor, you can 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.

Ontrack is a publication of RVS, written for parents, guardians, students, staff and members of the community. Inquiries regarding this edition of the Ontrack Opening Day Bulletin should be forwarded to Communications Officer Erlene Gococo by e-mail to egococo@rockyview.ab.ca or by calling 403.945.4146.

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