

Welcome to Grade 8 2018-2019



RancheView School

403.932.9811

rancheview@rockyview.ab.ca

2 Sundown Road, Cochrane, AB
T4C 0X8

Volunteering

If you are interested in volunteering in the classroom, field trips or the Grade 8 Farewell, please let us know as we would love to have you spend time with our class!

Mrs. Diana Taylor (Social Studies/Language Arts/Health)
Mr. Lanny Lam (Math/Science/PE/Health)

Leadership

At RancheView and in grade 8, we are looking for solid leadership from our students. They will have many opportunities to participate in leadership and grow their ability to affect change in their world.

In grade 8, there is a higher accountability for personal actions as students in all grades look towards them to be the example. We expect the hallmarks of a 21st Century Learner to be present in how our students interact with education and with others. This includes their ability to set examples of being kind to others and showing respect.

**Remember... healthy lunches,
snacks and water help develop
strong minds for learning!
(microwaves are NOT
available)**

Communication

The primary mode of communication with caregivers and families as a whole is through school newsletters, website and email. This communication is for information items on school activities, initiatives and those needing your response. Please ensure that a current e-mail address has been provided as updates or notices will be sent throughout the year via e-mail.

At the grade 8 level, if you have any concerns or questions, the most effective way to reach us is through RockyView email: Mrs. Taylor - dtaylor@rockyview.ab.ca or Mr. Lam - llam@rockyview.ab.ca. We can also be contacted by phone at RancheView after school, 403-932-9811. Inquiries will be returned as soon as possible.

Outdoor recesses combined with nature learning experiences, outdoor field trips and regular outdoor PE classes provide a fair amount of fresh air. Ensure that your child comes to school dressed for the changing weather and prepared to be active.

**WE go outside a LOT so
both indoor & outdoor
shoes are needed.**

RancheView School is an allergy aware school so we are able to accommodate and support students with severe allergies. Families are asked to not send any food with peanuts, tree nuts and sesame seeds (including hummus), because we have students with life threatening/anaphylactic allergies.

Curriculum in the Classroom

School Work Load

Throughout this year, students will experience a higher level of independent learning while being challenged to think critically and explore various options when completing work. Students are encouraged to think 'outside the box' when working on projects assigned by their teacher.

Assignments, homework and pertinent information can be located in the Moodle courses or Google Classroom, depending upon the class. All students have access to each platform and are responsible for completing assignments and communicating through these formats.

Students will find extended absences and incomplete assignments create challenges because of an increase in workload. Work that is missed due to absences is still required; if a student needs an extension, arrangements can be made.

Students will find they will require a quiet place at home to work as they could have up towards an hour a day of work at home. If a student is struggling to keep up or is finding schoolwork overwhelming, please talk with us as we have supports to help.

Social Studies

How intercultural contact shapes & influences worldview:

- European Renaissance
- Aztec & Spanish interactions
- Rapid adaptation of Japan's worldview

Language Arts

Communication of ideas and thoughts::

- Reading (novels, stories, articles and daily reading)
- Writing (conventions, formats, techniques)
- Speaking & Listening (presentations, speeches)

Mathematics

How math is used throughout our lives.:

- Number Sense
- Geometry
- Algebraic Relations

Science

How the world works around us.

- Light and Optics
- Cells and Systems
- Mechanical Systems

Health

Strategies to stay healthy in body, mind & spirit:

- Health & Lifestyles
- Mental Health
- Career Building

P.E.

Building active lifestyles through physical activities:

- Outdoor education
- Games and sport skills
- Leisure and recreation

Agendas

Students are to choose a format to use as an agenda. It is the student's responsibility to use and refer to their agenda on a daily basis to stay on top of their assignments and communicate with their parents about what they are learning. Types of agendas that can be used are: **hard cover book or notebook, Google Calendar, Google keep, Desktop notes...**

Technology in the Classroom

RTR (real time reporting / PowerSchool)

With RTR, you can check your child's progress at anytime for feedback on assignments, grades, and comments. Feedback will consist of remarks about what they have done well and what needs improvement. Passwords for caregivers, families and students can be found on the PowerSchool letter provided by the office or by contacting the office.

Challenges for Students

Implementing a one-to-one program (computer based learning) in grade 8 can be difficult for some students due to the pull of social media and computer games. Students will be guided through safe online practices when using their devices and as they interact in a 21st Century world. However, students ultimately make their own choices in how they interact with others and how they will use their technology at school.

Google Classroom

Students are to check for regular update of classroom learning, assignments and due dates on a daily basis.

Parents can determine how often they would like to receive updates.

Moodle

Humanities lessons and assignments are uploaded for student access.
<https://moodle.rockyview.ab.ca/login/index.php>

Students will be shown in class how to self-enroll and can show you how to access the site. This is a one-time occurrence.

Google Email

Students are to email completed assignments and questions to:

Humanities: dltdaylor@rvschools.ab.ca

Math and Science:
llam@rvschools.ab.ca

POD's (personal devices)

Some students choose to bring phones or other gaming devices. Although these devices can be used BEFORE or AFTER school, using personally owned devices will not be permitted during class, at recesses, or lunch times unless specified by the teacher. Parents who want to contact their children during the school day can phone the office. Students who wish to contact their parents will be permitted to use the classroom or office phone.

- *Students who are not using their devices appropriately will have their device confiscated and/or their privilege of using technology revoked.*

Technology Use

In grade 8 we will use technology as our main method of learning. Students will need to bring a device that allows access to work on documents digitally. Chrome books can be loaned from the library once the caregivers and families permission form has been completed and reviewed by the school technician.

- *Students who come to school without a device or permission to sign out a "loaner" are expected to complete assignments using a pen and paper.*

Please be aware that neither the school nor Rocky View district is responsible for any damages or thefts that may occur to personal technology.

Student Choice

As leadership and the ability to work in groups to make decisions and come to a consensus are important parts of our learning, students will be provided with the opportunity to brainstorm ideas of how they would like to celebrate their final year at RancheView.

Some ideas:

- Evening ceremony
- Overnight camping trip
- Waterpark
- Dinner at a restaurant
- *Other thoughts...*

Grade 8
Farewell
2018-2019

Fundraising

Throughout the year the grade 8 classes will host a variety of events to raise the funds needed to cover the costs of their chosen farewell event. While the Farewell Committee will be responsible for making the final decision about the events to host, grade 8 students are encouraged to help out as they can.

Fundraising ideas to consider:

- Sandwich sales
- Bake sales
- Movie previews
- Soda Float sales
- Recycling
- *Other ideas...*

Volunteering

Parent volunteers will be needed to help with the fundraising events and final farewell (as determined by the class). If you can help out at any of the activities, let us know as we would love your help!

Farewell Committee

A committee will be formed at the beginning of the year consisting of interested grade 8 students. Their role will be to organize events related to the farewell. This would include participating in collecting ideas and votes, organizing fundraising events to raise money to reach their financial goal, and helping with the organization of the final farewell.

Students will be asked to make a year long commitment to be a member of this committee which will meet at lunch recess once a week.

Grade 8 School Legacy

To commemorate their time at RancheView, students will be asked to consider what type of legacy they would like to leave with RancheView. As a class, we will spend time brainstorming ideas of what legacy we would like to leave with the RancheView school community.



Check out the display case to see what the previous year's class decided to leave as their legacy.