

Welcome to Grade 7!

Mr. Kempster & Mrs. Klager's Class

Hello RancheView Families!

We are very excited to help build the RancheView community this year with the Grade 7 students! Our school is focused on helping each student recognize themselves as leaders and developing the skills and attitudes that they'll need to impact the world around them.



Please note that communication between home and school can be accessed through our school website. Our teacher pages and links to resources can be found by accessing:

<http://rancheview.rockyview.ab.ca/>

Here are some notes for the beginning of the school year:

Staying in the Loop:

If you have any concerns or questions, the most effective way to reach us is by email: aklager@rockyview.ab.ca (Mrs. Klager) or ckempster@rockyview.ab.ca (Mr. Kempster) **Please ensure that we have a current e-mail address for you since important class updates or notices will be sent to you throughout the year through e-mail.** Typically you can expect us to respond to e-mails within a 24 hour period on business days. ***Please remember to include us both on any e-mails.*

Each student has their own Google account where they can access e-mail, drives, documents, calendars, and core subject classes as well as many other apps. These accounts are through Rocky View Schools and have extra security measures built in. Students can access the Google account by using the following format:

Username: firstnamemiddleinitiallastname@rvschools.ab.ca

Password: student I.D. #

Agendas

Student agendas are not provided for the upper grades at RancheView. Instead, students can access course work deadlines on the google calendar that is connected to their user profile. Parents/Guardians will be able to access this calendar through our teacher pages on the school website or ask their child to see the calendar when they log in to their google profile.

Homework

In Grade 7, homework can be a way for students to start developing ownership over their own learning and work on areas where they may need additional practice. Typically the homework that is assigned will be in the core subject areas and will often be specific to larger projects, or studying for tests. That being said, many students have very busy extra-curricular activities or responsibilities that also help to develop skill-sets in

individual interest areas. Keeping this in mind, generally speaking, if students are using class time effectively in our classes they should not be experiencing heavy amounts of homework. Your child should not exceed more than 30 min. of homework/night and if this is happening on a regular basis please inform us as soon as possible so we can discuss strategies to help your child complete more work during the class time that is provided.

Homework can be a way for you to be involved in your child's learning, become aware of the learning happening in the classroom, and help them to develop organizational skills. *If your child comes home without any homework*, here are some strategies to help them continue a regular routine:

- 1) Double check the google calendar to ensure that they are looking ahead to set priorities for upcoming assignments.
- 2) A regular routine of home reading is still expected at this level! Students should be reading for at **least 20 min. every day**. Reading novels, magazines, graphic novels, instruction manuals, recipes, or even reviewing the day's work all count as reading. Get them reading what they love!
- 3) Play a board or card game with your child to help build their numeracy and problem solving skills
- 4) Get your child to showcase what they've been working on. Even if they don't bring their binder home, each student can show you their work in the classes on-line through their google account. Please get your child to show you where the course resources are.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a special time for the students and we would like to recognize each child on their birthday. If you would like to do something special for your child on their birthday such as bringing cupcakes or a special treat for the class take note that we have 40 students in grade 7 and act as one large class. There are students and staff in the building who have severe peanut allergies so please ensure that snacks you send are peanut, tree nut and sesame seed free. Summer birthdays can be celebrated on "half birthdays" in January and February.

Scholastic

Scholastic magazines are given out at the beginning of each month. Purchasing scholastic is completely optional, but if you would like to buy something please send a cheque made out to Scholastic for the full amount. Then submit the order form by the 15th of each month so we can place a class order for that month.

Lunches

RancheView School is a "closed campus" school which means that students must stay on campus for lunch unless they have special permission by parents/guardians and are signed out. Please ensure that students come prepared with a refillable water bottle, a healthy lunch, and snacks that don't need to be heated up. There are no microwaves for student use. Remember, healthy food, healthy mind = strong learning!!

As environmental leaders, the RancheView community will be encouraged to limit our waste. Please think about how you or your child can create waste free lunches:

- sandwiches and other main dishes, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and treats in a reusable lunch container
- cloth napkins, reusable cutlery and drink containers

- have your child 'pack-out' their waste- this way you can see what they've eaten and it also reduces food waste

(Tips take from: <http://www.wastefreelunches.org/what-is-a-waste-free-lunch-program.html>)

Technology

In Grade 7 we encourage the students to bring laptops so they can access the digital resources we use for our classes. Some students also choose to bring phones or other gaming devices. Although these other 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/Guardians who would like to be able to contact their children during the school day can phone the office.* Students will be permitted to use the classroom phone to contact their parents/guardians when it is a suitable time. Students who are not using their devices appropriately may have their device confiscated or their privilege of using technology revoked.

We go outside A LOT!

On a typical day, our class will be outside for an hour or more! Morning Spark routines, regular outdoor recesses, nature learning experiences, outdoor field trips, and outdoor PE classes provide the students with a fair amount of fresh air and exercise. Please make sure that your child comes to school dressed for the changing weather in Cochrane and is prepared to be very active each day! **Remember that we are a "2 shoe school". Your child needs to have 1 pair of non-marking indoor shoes that are suitable for PE.

Volunteering

We will be looking for volunteers throughout the year to help us with field trips or special class events. Information regarding volunteering in the classroom will be forthcoming but if you have a desire to help out in any way please ensure your criminal record check is up to date.

Power School

Power School allows you to access student grades and attendance on-line. This is an important tool to help monitor student progression throughout the entire school year. All students are given a username and login identification at the beginning of each school year. Communicating your child's progress in a timely manner is a priority. Please be aware that grades will be updated at least every 2 weeks.

Thank you in advance for your continued support this year! Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns throughout the year!

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