

École Intermédiaire Lawrence Grassi Middle School

2017 - 2018

"REACH FOR THE PEAKS / ATTEINDRE LE SOMMET"

Welcome to/Bienvenue à Lawrence Grassi Middle School. Our school is the namesake of a well-known local citizen, Lawrence Grassi. (1890 – 1980). We are so excited to welcome you to the Ecole Lawrence Grassi Middle School. We believe our building celebrates the learning opportunities that await you.

Mr. Grassi was one of the foremost "trailmakers" in the Canadian Rockies. He thought like an ancient engineer. Wherever he wished trails to take us he constructed them. He loved nature and always brought a generous heart to the task of constructing a trail. He believed this simple technology could promote our pleasures in accessing the splendor of our majestic mountain peaks.

"The world needs Grassis. In the realm of the spirit, in the search after truth, in the field of social relationships, in international affairs, we need trail makers - men and women who will seek new paths..." Hansard, 1937

In our school we continue his legacy of finding fresh pathways to learning, and constructing new trails of discovery. We are Grassis in the making. He has done more than build local hiking trails, he has taught us a way of life. Like Lawrence Grassi, we must continue to strive to reach for the PEAKS, thus our school motto.

The staff of Lawrence Grassi is committed to one primary purpose: to serve the education needs of all students, including academic, social, emotional and behavioural considerations. Our ultimate goal is to establish a solid base of knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for students to become lifelong learners. We recognize that parents are the first teachers and are our partners to form an integral part of the Lawrence Grassi Educational team.

Our Mission Statement:

Lawrence Grassi Middle School is a safe and caring school situated in the **HEART** of the mountains. We aim to maximize individual learning for life as we strive for the **PEAKS**.

Each year, our children reflect the inspiration of Lawrence Grassi by striving to reach the peaks of excellence not only academically and physically but also socially and emotionally in their ongoing quest for success.

HEART =
Honesty
Effort
Attitude
Respect
Teamwork

PEAKS =
Potential
Empathy
Acceptance
Knowledge
Success

LGMS Expectations

- RESPECT YOURSELF
- RESPECT OTHERS
- RESPECT PROPERTY
- RESPECT ENVIRONMENT

How can Parents Help?

Parents are encouraged to serve as advocates for their children. The Board believes that Parents should:

- Participate in Parent Programs such as School Council
- Become familiar with school programs and policies, and
- Actively support expectations held by staff for the behaviour of students at school and school activities.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Reporting to Parents

Notes to parents/guardians, emails, phone calls and interviews, conferences, with students and or parents/guardians, and other means of communication are also used at any time between reporting periods to indicate strengths or weaknesses in a subject area or in student behaviour and attitude. Along with agendas in grades 4 and 5, teachers will also communicate via email and their classroom websites.

Extra-curricular Activities

An active program of physical education, clubs, music and other activities during the school year is offered during lunch times and after school. We invite and welcome student participation in these programs. Every school activity is supervised by a teacher. Please check newsletters, announcements, or check with teachers for information regarding intramurals and extra-curricular programs.

Library

Our school Librarian works with students in developing reading and research skills. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner when using the library. Books are signed out for a three-week period. Books must always be signed out when leaving the library. Over-due book lists are published and students must pay for lost books.

Counseling Services

The overall purpose of counseling, like teaching, is to maximize the learning potential of children in the school system. Counseling philosophy operates upon the basic assumption that children who feel capable and worthwhile will gain the maximum benefit from their school experience. Counseling, however, is able to provide a more personalized service than teaching by taking the individual needs and circumstances of each child more fully into account. It also provides teachers and parents with child development expertise to assist them in optimizing the development of the children in their care. Counselors, working cooperatively with other school personnel, respond to: the developmental needs of children, the factors which adversely affect or interfere with a child's personal learning and development, the major societal problems which threaten a child's well-being and adjustment.

How to ask for help?

Referrals can be made by parents, school staff, other students and the child him/herself. Contact our school counselor for further details on the referral process

Dress Regulations

In our opinion, dress influences the attitudes of students toward themselves and their work. Just as there is a mode of dress suitable for business, professional work, the playing field, the gymnasium or various social activities, there is also a mode of dress suitable for the classroom. Good taste and judgment are among the

educational goals we aspire to develop among our students. Styles in dress and grooming become unacceptable when they become a distraction in the classroom.

Physical Education Clothing

Running shoes and suitable clothing must be supplied for physical education classes.

Indoor Shoes

All students (Grades 4 to 8) are expected to have a pair of shoes which are to be worn inside only.

Personal Items

Personal items such as athletic equipment, radios, electronic games, playing cards, toys, ipods, MP3 players, and game boys should not be brought to school. It is inappropriate for students to wear headsets in the school, unless directed to do so by a teacher. **The school is not responsible for the loss or damage of these items.** Items that disrupt or interfere in the management of the classroom will be confiscated by the teacher. Lost and Found boxes are located in a number of locations in the school. Students are encouraged to look through these boxes for their lost items. Once every six weeks, Lost & Found items are put on display in the school foyer. Following the display all articles are bagged and sent to "goodwill".

Cell Phones

Cell phones - Students may use cellphones during break time only, unless directed by a teacher as a learning tool during class time. Texting is prohibited in all classrooms. Camera cellphones are not allowed in the gym change areas. Students not obeying cell phone use as outlined above will receive the following consequences: **First offence** student will receive a warning and cell phone is confiscated until the end of the day. **Second offence**, cell phone is confiscated and parent notified to come to school to retrieve the phone.

Technology Use Policy and Digital Citizenship

Your child will receive a Technology Use Policy permission form to sign and return to school. CRPS believes that the use of the internet and related technology in our schools should be for educational purposes and under the supervision of a staff member. We seek to protect both students and staff by developing an acceptable use policy that balances freedoms, need for information and the safety of our students and staff. Please consult our school website for more information regarding useful websites on digital citizenship.

Technology continued:

As technology becomes more infused in the curriculum, it may be possible for students to explore many optional learning/researching strategies. All students and parents who wish their students to have access to this technology will be asked to read and agree to the conditions of the Acceptable Use Policy.

Lockers

Lockers will be provided to students in grade 5-8. The school will provide the lock. No other locks are to be used at any time. **If the lock that is supplied to the student is lost or damaged, a replacement cost of \$8.00 will be required.** Grade 4 students will use the classroom for supplies, coats and boots.

Books and Supplies

Books and materials supplied to the student by the school must be returned in good condition. A charge will be made for lost or damaged items.

Bicycles / Boards / Blades

Bicycles must be parked in the bicycle compound at the rear of the school or in the front. Students may ride bikes on school property but not in any of the parking lots surrounding the school facility, or the running track. We cannot accept responsibility for any lost or damaged bicycles or accessories. Skateboards and in-line roller blades may be ridden in designated areas only. Helmets must be worn at all times for these activities. This is for the safety of all students.

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are crucial to student learning. In fact, they are so important that they are listed in the Alberta School Act. When a student is absent from school, it is important that the school be informed.

If any student cannot attend school or is late, phone 678-6006 and Press 1 to report an absence. You can call this phone number 24 hours a day. The school will send out an **attendance email** reporting students who are late or absent unexcused.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain and complete all missed assignments while absent.

Late Arrivals

Students arriving after the late bell are to report to the office to check in as late. The office staff will provide late slips for late arrivals. They will also then re-mark the attendance to reflect "late" rather than "absent". Late is considered not seated in your desk when the attendance and announcements are read by your homeroom teacher. If you know that your child is going to be late and it is for an excused reason, i.e.: dentist/doctor appointment, etc. please telephone the school attendance line and advise the office.

Early Dismissal

Any students who are required to leave the school for any reason should have a note explaining the situation with a parent/guardian signature. All students leaving the school must report to the office on their departure and return.

Students who consider themselves sick must report to the office after advising their teacher that they are ill and are dismissed by them. Arrangements can be made to phone parents/guardians. A sick room is also available where students may rest. If a parent comes to pick up their child, they must sign that student out in a book at the front desk.

Hall Courtesy

For the safety of all students in our school, and in order to maintain conditions conducive to learning, certain rules have been made for hall conduct. It is the responsibility of each student and teacher to maintain these rules:

1. Go immediately to your classes.
2. Walk quietly: there is to be no running in the halls at any time.
3. Make as little noise as possible at your lockers and in the locker rooms.

Lunch Hour

Grade 4, 5 & 6 students will remain on school property during the lunch hour. Parents must provide written permission for each occasion their child is to leave the school property.

Grade 7 & 8 students may decide with their parents whether they have permission to leave the school grounds during the lunch hour. At the beginning of the school year, parents will be required to sign a permission form acknowledging that their child has permission to leave the school grounds and is aware **that during this time the school is not supervising their child**. If circumstances warrant, i.e., continual lates, reported disturbance off school property, this privilege may be revoked.

Assigned Work Policy

One of the goals of the school program is to help students develop responsibility for their own learning. Thus, we emphasize the importance of each student taking a personal responsibility for completing assignments and meeting deadlines.

Homework

Homework includes:

- Completion of work not finished in class
- Completion of short and long-term assignments
- Study for exams and quizzes

The following will be put in place should a student not complete his-her homework:

- a. One chance on your own
- b. At break with support
- c. At break or home with support of parent (call)
- d. Out=administration now responsible (daily, weekly check in)

Students who set aside time on a regular basis for homework, studying or reading will see the benefits. Parents could help by providing a suitable place and regular time for study, and by insisting that the work be complete and well done. Parents would be providing valuable assistance to the students and teachers if they regularly examine homework and Agendas.

Synopsis of Classroom Expectations

We expect our students to behave with decorum, to cooperate and show respect for others.

Teachers will develop expectations with their students to include them in the process. Expectations will align with LGMS as a school.

Should a student decide to violate these expectations, they may expect to be referred to an administrator.

Respect Yourself

Respect Others

Respect Property

Respect the Environment

Student Problem Solving

Students are expected to take responsibility for their behaviour and learn ways to control and change their behaviour. The focus of all interventions with students will be based on helping them to solve their problems and be accountable for the choices they make, through the restorative model.

Minor Offenses:

Staff members will handle minor offenses promptly. Students will assess incidents of poor judgment on their part and together with the adult, create an appropriate action plan.

Major Offenses:

Major offences are those behaviours which threaten the orderly function of the school or are deemed unsafe to self or others. These may include repeated defiance of authority, physical conflict, and/or continuous disruptive behaviour.

The consequence for major offenses will be decided for each individual case. Continued issues of major misbehavior will result in a progression of consequences which may include in-school suspension, at home suspension, or assistance through out-of-school agencies.

Emphasis will be on restitution. Other actions may include:

- Development of an activity to build positive relationships.
 - Assignment of an alternative activity.
 - Withdrawal of privileges.
 - Temporary relocation of a student from their class to an alternative location in the school.
- Student Suspension for serious misconduct.