

Welcome to Grade 6!



Meet the Teacher



Hi! My name is Mr. Vanden Pol and this is my 10th year teaching at Fort McMurray Christian School. I am so happy to be back this fall spending time teaching and supporting your kids. I've missed the classroom so much :)

You may have noticed two Vanden Pols in the staff directory because my wife is also a teacher and teaches Grade 3 here at FMCS. Together, we have been blessed with two wonderful and energetic boys named Reuben(4) and Thomas(2). I will probably end up sharing lots of stories about them with your kids as the year goes on. We attend Evergreen Community Christian Reformed Church and always love seeing our students there as well.

In my spare time I enjoy coaching sports here at the school, which will probably look a little different this year, but I still hope to organize something. I also enjoy playing volleyball, spending time with my own kids, and I also like to relax and play on my Nintendo from time to time as well.

I am excited to get started and it is my privilege to be learning growing with your child year. I look forward to getting to know you and your family more in the days and months ahead. Please pray for me and the students as we begin this journey together. Thank you in advance for your support this year!

About Grade Six

Our Storyline

In Grade six our Storyline (Yearly Theme) is *Eager To Do What Is Good*. Students in grade six are now getting a little older and little more mature, so I like to put more responsibility on them. We start the year by trying to answer the question, *how can you share God's love in the world?*

10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

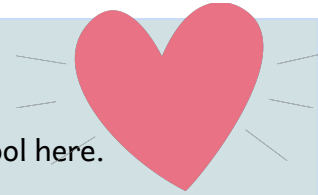
1 John 4:10-12

Academics and Homework

I have high expectations for my students when they are in my classroom. I expect them to be responsible community builders who do their best to complete the work that is given to them. As a teacher I believe in making lessons and activities as engaging and interesting as possible to help students stay focused and on task. As well, my students know that I am here to help them if they are stuck at any point in time.

I know that at the end of a long school day I am ready to go home and relax with my family and I think this is especially important for kids. You will not see homework from me unless a student makes the choice to use class time foolishly instead of getting their work done. I also give lots of review time for tests in class, so most students will be not need to study extra at home. My expectations for work at home is for students to be in the habit of reading every day and to practice and learn their monthly memory verses. I will let you know what verse students are learning and when it is due so you can help them with this. Just like reading, I find it best to practice the memory verse every day to ensure it is something they will remember beyond the walls of our classroom.

Keeping Students Safe



This year brings with it a few new routines to help minimize risk of Covid-19. I will highlight a few important details below and you can read the full re-entry plan for the school [here](#).

Drop-Off and Pick Up

Parents are being asked to stay in their vehicles during drop-off and pick up. Grade six students will head to the far North portable doors (staff will be there to help for the first days) and line up at the pylon marked grade six. We are asking students to stay off the playground before school to help us get into the building as safely and quickly as possible. Classes will enter the school in a staggered manner with grade six heading into school after the grade fours and fives. For recess and at the end of the day classes will also have staggered dismissal to help avoid congestion in the hallways.

Lockers

Grade six students will be using lockers this year however we are asking that we limit as much as possible items moving between school and home so students should not be bringing any extra toys, games, or equipment to school. A change of clothes for gym is fine. If they have a metal or plastic shelf they would like to put in the bottom that is also okay.

Lunch

There will be no microwave available in grade six for lunch. As well, parents are not permitted to bring lunch for students in the middle of the day. They need to bring their lunch from home. In the event a lunch is forgotten we will have pre-packaged, healthy food options such as granola bars, apple sauce, and individually wrapped fruit for students to eat. There are also no utensils available for students to use so students need to be sure they bring any necessary forks or spoons with them in their lunch. Otherwise things will get a little messy :)

Masks

Masks are mandatory for grade six students in common areas this year. Students should come to school having a mask to wear before coming inside and will put on a mask before leaving for the day. In the classroom wearing a mask will be optional. Student masks should be kept in a breathable bag when not in use or they can use a mask lanyard to ensure it stays with them throughout the day..

Daily Risk Assessment

Please ensure you are only sending students to school when they are healthy. The bar for being allowed to send your kid to school is much higher this year. Parents are asked to use this [risk assessment tool](#) daily with their children to check for symptoms. You do not need to submit the form to the school, it is a reference tool for your use.

In the event your child develops symptoms at school we will call you and follow the protocols outlined in our [School Re-Entry Plan](#).

In order to make this school year a success it is so important to ensure that only healthy kids come to school. I will support student learning at home if they are unable to come to school to ensure they do not fall behind. Remember, we are all in this together!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. There is a lot to think about and work through, so if you are unsure about anything, just ask :)



Student Supplies

To help things flow smoothly on the first day of school (Thursday, September 3rd) please help your child pre-pack their supplies as follows:

Their pencil case should be packed with their pencils (some, not all), erasers, scissors, pencil sharpeners, etc.

Binders should have student names written on the spine.
They should add some looseleaf to their math binder
(Not all of it. Maybe 50 or so sheets. Graph paper can stay at home for now.)
The other 2 binders can come empty.



Please put student names on all duo-tangs and their devotion journal

All other supplies can be put neatly in their backpack and students will put it where it needs to go in the classroom or in their desk.

After the first day the only items that really need to go back and forth to school is the students' lunch kit and jacket. Students do not need to bring a backpack with them unless it is very important to them they do so. This will help us limit the amount of time spent in the hallway at lockers.

Thank you for your help!

Stay Connected

I will do my best to keep you updated with important information and reminders from our grade 6 classroom. Here are some ways to do that.

Remind

My primary form of communication will be using the Remind App. You can join by [clicking this link](#) or by following these [instructions](#).

Email

I will also be using emails periodically to send classroom newsletters or attachments. If you have any questions, concerns or information to share with me please send me an email ronald.vandenpol@fmprsd.ab.ca.

Google Classroom

This year we will be using Google Classroom in Grade six for some of our class assignments. In the event a student is home sick they will be able to access Google Classroom at home. To learn more about Google Classroom please [click here](#).

Parent Homework

I cannot wait to get to know your children better this year but no one knows them like you do. Please send me an email (ronald.vandenpol@fmprsd.ab.ca) and tell me what you think I should know about your child. What are they interested in? How would you describe their personality? If you have concerns, academic or otherwise, please let me know. This information will help me build a stronger relationship with your child so I can teach them to the best of my ability. Thank you!