

Fort McMurray Christian School Handbook

2024-25



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2024-2025 DIVISION CALENDAR

231 Hardin Street,
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PH: 780-799-7900

August 2024							September 2024							October 2024							November 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024							January 2025							February 2025							March 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
29	30	31																			30	31					

April 2025							May 2025							June 2025							July 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
							4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31		
27	28	29	30											29	30												

August

- 5 Civic Holiday
- 20 Schools open for registration
- 24 First Day, Teachers
- 29 First Day, School-Based CUPE

December

- 4 PLF #5 (No School for Students)
- 20 PLF #6 (No School for Students)
- 25 Christmas Day (No School)
- 26 Stat Holiday (No School)
- 29-31 Winter Break (No School)

April

- 4 PLF #11 (No School for Students)
- 14-17 Spring Break (No School)
- 18 Good Friday (No School)
- 21 Spring Break (No School)

September

- 2 Labour Day (No School)
- 3 First Day Students K, 1 & 7 only
- 4 First Day All Other Grades
- 20 PLF #1 (No School for Students)
- 30 National Day of Truth & Reconciliation (No School)

January

- 1 New Years Day (No School)
- 23 Winter Break (No School)
- 24 School Resumes from Winter Break
- 6 PLF #7 (No School for Students)
- 24 PLF #7 (No School for Students)
- 29 Semester 2 Begins
- 31 PD Day (No School for Students)

May

- 2 PLF #12 (No School for Students)
- 16 P11 Day in Lieu (No School)
- 19 Victoria Day (No School)

October

- 11 PLF #2 (No School for Students)
- 14 Thanksgiving Day (No School)
- 25 PLF #3 (No School for Students)

February

- 14 PLF #8 (No School for Students)
- 17 Family Day (No School)
- 26-28 Convention Break (No School)
- 27-28 ATA Staff at Teacher's Convention (No School)

June

- 6 PLF #13 (No School for Students)
- 25 Last Day, Students
- 27 Last Day, Staff

November

- 1 Institute Day (No School for Students)
- 8 P11 Day in Lieu (No School)
- 11 Remembrance Day (No School)
- 22 PLF #4 (No School for Students)

March

- 14 PLF #9 (No School for Students)
- 28 PLF #10 (No School for Students)

July

- 1 Canada Day

KEY

Important Day-Students
PD Day Staff Only
Important Day - Staff
School Break All
PLF - Staff Only
Day in Lieu - No School
Stat Holiday - No School

NOTES

Semester 1

Operational Days: 98
Instructional Days: 84

Semester 2

Operational Days: 97
Instructional Days: 85
Total Operational: 195
Total Instructional: 169

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Fort McMurray Christian School acknowledges that we are on Treaty 8 Territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, D n sulini , and M tis. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, M tis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries. We are dedicated to honouring the intent and spirit of Treaty 8.

Who We Are

The Fort McMurray Christian School (FMCS) is an ECDP-Grade 9 program that is a *Public Interdenominational Christian Alternative School*. We welcome all who wish to receive a Christian Education regardless of where they are on their journey of faith.

The school provides an accredited Alberta Curriculum that is shaped by the Christian faith from an interdenominational perspective. This faith finds its expression in the entire program of instruction by infusing the Christian Worldview through a program called "Teaching for Transformation" (TfT). TfT, as developed by the Prairie Centre for Christian Education, provides

a framework for the development of authentic and integral Christian learning experiences that are grounded in a Biblical Worldview with a focus on the Biblical story.

Vision, Mission and Purpose Statements

Vision Statement:

The Fort McMurray Christian School Alternative Program is committed to achieving academic excellence offering an alternative program from a Christian perspective.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to equip all students with a Christ-centred education that fosters spiritual growth, academic excellence, and servant leadership, preparing them to fulfil their God-given potential to make a lasting impact in the world.

Purpose Statement:

Students attending Fort McMurray Christian School are encouraged to develop their gifts and abilities in response to a divine call to a life of faith in accordance with the Vision and Mission Statement of the school. The purpose of the school's programming is to prepare students:

1. with an education based on the Bible where the Christian perspective is integrated into every aspect of study
2. to develop an understanding of their own relationship to God as well as their relationship to others and creation
3. to provide an education which allows them to reach their potential academically, spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically
4. to direct them in the development of Christ-like character, and,
5. to prepare them to be of service in the local, national, and international community

In sum, we strive to have our students be responsive and productive in all that they do to the glory of God.

Statement of Christian Faith, Biblical Foundations

FMCS will explore the following Christian beliefs: The world belongs to God! This includes the following principles related to Christian faith and the role of education:

Scriptures: The Bible is the God-breathed Word of Truth, fully reliable in leading us to know God and have life in Jesus Christ. Its infallibility tells of God's mighty acts, reveals His will and His plan of salvation.

Creation: In the beginning God - Father, Son and Spirit - called this world into being out of nothing and gave it shape and order. God continues to direct all that happens in His world.

Sin: Our disobedience to God has broken the relationship. Looking for life without God, we find only death, leaving us blind to our place in the world and to the meaning of life.

Redemption: Jesus Christ, the eternal Word made flesh, conquered sin through His death and resurrection. Being both God and man, Jesus is the only mediator between God and His people. He alone paid the debt of sin; there is no other Saviour. It is in Jesus Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit, that all areas of life, including education, are redeemed and restored. Therefore, it is only in Jesus Christ that we are able to discover the meaning and purpose of life.

True knowledge of God, of a Christian's self and of all of creation, is made possible only by a true faith in Jesus Christ, and finds its source in the Word of God, through the direction of the Holy Spirit.

A Christian's purpose is to acknowledge that the rule of Jesus Christ covers the whole universe, including the world, and recognize that to follow the Lord is to serve Him in all aspects of life, including the field of education.

APPLE Schools

Fort McMurray Christian School is proud to be an APPLE School (Alberta Project Promoting active Living and Healthy Eating). As part of this initiative our school's Health Champion will work with the entire school community: students, staff, parents and community organisations, to promote healthy eating and active living.

Because the health of our children is such a vital and sometimes challenging task, **parents are encouraged to provide their children with healthy lunches and snacks**. If you have any questions about what to provide or how to prepare healthy lunches or treats, please feel free to contact our Health Champion at (780) 743-1079. It is our wish to work with students, parents and the entire school community to make the healthy choice the easy choice.

Fort McMurray Public School Division has developed a "*Health Promoting School Environment*" policy, and can be found at fmcsd.ab.ca. FMCS has developed Healthy School Guidelines. A copy is available on our school website. These guidelines were developed with the input from students, parents, staff and various community health agencies.

School Parent Council

The FMCS School Council is a structured group of parents, principals, teachers, secondary students, and community representatives who work together to effectively support and enhance student learning. They provide a method for members of the school community to consult with and offer advice to the principal and the school board.

Parents play a vital role in student success and can participate in decisions that impact student learning through school council. By contributing knowledge, perspective and ideas at school

council meetings, parents are actively contributing to school community and school division success.

Fort McMurray Christian School Society

In 1993, Fort McMurray Christian School was formed as an Independent Christian School in Alberta. In order to do this, the school was required to have a governing body to make decisions on how the school was run. This is the Fort McMurray Christian School Society.

Even though we are now a Public Alternative School within the Fort McMurray Public School Division, we still have a School Society which helps make decisions about Christian Programming at the school. They are in charge of supporting the "B"s:

- **Bible** - Helping support Christian Education at the school
- **Busing** - Helping organise transportation to the school
- **Budget** - Deciding on the cost of Society Fees and how best to support the school with those fees

The School Society is a great way for parents to support the school and make impactful decisions to create a wonderful, faith-filled, learning environment.

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance is critical for academic success. By law all students ages 6 to 16 are required to attend school. **If a student will be absent from school for any reason, parents are asked to contact the school office in advance. After hours, parents may leave a voicemail message at our main office number (780) 743-1079 or by emailing fmcs.absences@fmcsd.ab.ca**

When students are absent from school and a message has not been received from parents in advance, the following procedures occur:

- Parents will be contacted to confirm that their child is at home. **Please ensure that we have accurate contact information. If personal contact cannot be made, a voicemail message will be left.**
- Classroom teachers advise the principal if poor attendance becomes an issue affecting the student's academic success. The principal may contact parents to discuss the concern.
- If attendance continues to be a concern, the principal may arrange a conference with parents and the student to discuss concerns and possible solutions.
- If this does not resolve the issue, the principal may contact the Alberta Attendance Board to report the problem.

Hot Lunch Program

Students may be offered the option of ordering a healthy lunch served twice a week, and provided by local vendors. **All orders are made online** via Parent Portal on a month by month basis and must be paid for in advance. Further details regarding the menu, cost and procedures for ordering will be provided prior to the beginning of the hot lunch program. For example, in the 2023-2024 school year we had Milano's, A&W, and Boston Pizza for the hot lunch program.

School Counsellor

Our school counsellor stands ready to extend support and care to our students. Through individual counselling, mediation, and small group work, the counsellor offers a safe space for students to express their concerns, seek guidance, and find healing. The counsellor provides a compassionate ear helping students navigate challenges and find solace. Additionally, recognizing the diverse needs of our student body, the counsellor facilitates whole class activities and programming that draw upon biblical wisdom and values, fostering personal growth, emotional well-being, and character development for all. As a conduit for support, the counsellor also collaborates with various community agencies, ensuring that students have access to a range of resources and services beyond the school community.

Communication

Effective communication between school and home is essential to providing the best learning environment for students, and to nurture continuous school improvement. To help facilitate that communication, we ask all parents to **ensure that the school has their email address on file**, and check it regularly for weekly communications from the school and its staff. We will do our best to keep parents/caregivers well informed about what is happening at Fort McMurray Christian School through email, as well as our website at christian.fmpsdschools.ca.

You can expect the following forms of communication that you can take advantage of:

1. Website: <https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/>
2. FMCS News Page: <https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/home/news>
3. Social Media:
 - Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FMChristianRoyals>)
 - Twitter (@ChristianFMPSD)
 - Instagram (fm_christian_school)
4. Royal Herald (Quarterly Newsletter)
5. Weekly Emails from Teachers
6. Homeroom teachers in elementary are required to update Powerschool with core subject marks at least once every month. Teachers in junior high are required to update Powerschool with marks at least once every two weeks in each core subject.
7. Messages from Principal and Admin Staff

Additionally, teachers may use other apps for their specific classes. Please reach out to the teacher for further information.

Computer Use Policy

Computers, iPads, Chromebooks and networks are in place for educational and research purposes and/or the support of those purposes consistent with the educational objectives of Fort McMurray Public School Division. Teachers will monitor student access while using school computers. This may include checks of files and/or email to determine whether the systems are being used in a manner that is consistent with school/division policy.

Staff may suspend, deny, or revoke specific student access to computer systems if they are used inappropriately.

Phones, Electronic Devices

Each classroom is equipped with a hard-line telephone that may be used for essential student calls with teacher permission. The use of student cell phones are prohibited during the school day (8:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.) **Other devices such as Chromebooks and other electronic devices are for educational purposes only, and under the direction/supervision of school staff.** Essential incoming or outgoing calls should be made via school telephones with staff permission.

Student phones are only permitted during non-instructional times (i.e. prior to 8:00 a.m. and after 2:40 p.m.). In the interest of safety, only one earphone is to be used with electronic devices to ensure that teachers, supervisors and announcements can be heard at all times.

Inappropriate use of any electronic device may result in confiscation and banning of further use at school. Refusal to surrender such devices to a staff member when requested will be considered an act of defiance and fall under the school discipline policy.

FMCS is not responsible for damage or loss of personal electronic devices or other personal property. These are the sole responsibility of the owner.

LetGrow

At FMCS we recognize the need to balance technology use with providing opportunities to have students learn vital skills that are not tied to a screen. That is why we are implementing the LetGrow program. Let Grow's school and community programs give young people a bracing dose of the rocket fuel known as independence. Trusted with the chance to start doing some things on their own — including plain old playing — kids explore the world, discover new interests, and problem-solve as they go. Students and families will be given small homework projects to help build independence and resiliency.

Homework

For purposes of this policy statement, *homework* is defined as “supplementary school work specifically assigned by the teacher to be completed at home”.

- Homework will not be assigned arbitrarily. It will be purposeful, and either an extension of regular class work, or the result of not completing class work in the time allotted.
- Teachers will establish and communicate due dates for assignments.
- Teachers expect all assignments to be handed in when they are due.
- Incomplete work due to chronic absenteeism will be handled on an individual basis based on what is fair and reasonable for the student.
- Students are encouraged to read at home on a regular basis.

Textbooks and Library Materials

Students are assigned textbooks (mostly in the junior high) for the courses they are taking subject to the following procedures:

- Students are responsible for the textbooks issued to them.
- Students are responsible to return the same textbooks that were issued to them.
- Textbooks which are not returned for any reason (lost, borrowed, stolen, destroyed) or which are damaged beyond normal use must be paid for by the student to whom the books were issued. The cost will be determined by the replacement cost of the books, taking into consideration the condition of the book at the time it was issued to the student, and normal wear and tear.
- If a book is missing for any reason during the instructional term, the student may be required to pay for the book before a replacement copy is issued. Special arrangements may be made in cases of financial hardship.
- If a missing book is paid for and later recovered, the amount paid will be refunded to the student.
- Students may be charged a “repair fee” in the event their textbooks become damaged or marked up in any way. In extreme situations it may be determined that a book is too seriously marked up to be used again. In these cases, students must pay the replacement cost of the book. This cost will be determined based on the condition of the book at the time the student signed it out. Students should only write their names on the inside front cover of their textbooks.

School Supplies

Students are expected to provide their own basic school supplies. Supply lists are available in the school office or on our website.

School Fees

Fees may be levied for services or materials that are over and above what would be considered part of core instruction. This may include field trips, ski trips, transportation costs, etc. There are fees associated with grade nine graduation, elective fees, busing, etc. Please check out <https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/parents/fees> for the latest and updated fees.

Society Fees

Fort McMurray Christian School is an Alternative Program within the FMPSD. As such, the District does not fund our specialised Christian programming. To cover the cost of providing Christian programming that permeates every aspect of school life, the Fort McMurray Christian School Society collects fees.

Society program fees for the 2023/24 school year are as follows:

K - \$500.00
 1 student (grades 1-9) - \$1000.00
 2 students (grades 1-9) - \$1500.00
 3+ students (grades 1-9) - \$1750.00

For further information on Society fees and Christian Education please check out our webpage at: <https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/school-society>

Bus Transportation

With the rising costs of transportation we are actively looking for ways to provide busing for our students as there is no busing provided for the Christian School specifically. If students are in the Timberlea catchment area then they can request to take the Timberlea school bus.

Many of our families carpool and if you would like help arranging this then please call the school office and we can send a message to our community requesting assistance in this area.

For our JH students there is a bus stop in front of the school and by neighbouring St. Anne's School. It is Route 12 – Thickwood to Timberlea. For scheduling and student transit fees please go to https://www.rmwb.ca/en/transit/transit.aspx?_mid_=33769

Questions regarding transportation can be made by calling the school office at 780-743-1079.

STUDENT SAFETY

Bicycles, Skateboards, Rollerblades, & Scooters

From 8:00am to 3:00pm students are requested to walk their bikes, skateboards, rollerblades and scooters while on school property. Bicycles must be locked in the racks provided. Scooters and skateboards must be kept inside classrooms or lockers. The office does not have enough space to hold student gear.

Child Check

A child check program is in place to ensure student safety. Parents *will be contacted at home or work* when a telephone call or note has not been received by staff explaining an absence.

All students leaving the school early or arriving at the school past class start time must check into the office prior to going to or from class.

Inclement Weather

Students are expected to wear clothing appropriate for the weather conditions at all times. Students found to be inappropriately dressed will be kept indoors and have their parents/caregivers contacted. **When the temperature drops below -24C (including wind chill factor) or during inclement weather, students will be supervised in their classrooms.** *The Weather Network* (Timberlea zone) is used as a reference across the school division. An announcement will be made over the school P/A system as needed before and during school hours. During fair weather, students are to remain outside upon their arrival at school.

For an air quality index higher than **7** all students will be kept inside.

Leaving School Grounds

Students in **Grades ECDP-7** are expected to remain on school grounds at all times. Students leaving school grounds during regular school hours must be signed out from the office by a parent or guardian. **Grade 8 and 9** students may leave the grounds for lunch and are expected to return on time for their afternoon classes. At some point throughout the year, the principal may extend this privilege to the grade 7s.

Life Threatening Allergies Protocol - Parents/Caregivers please make sure that this is updated at least once every year or as necessary.

Consistent with our vision of providing a safe and caring environment for all students, Fort McMurray Christian School has implemented a protocol to address life-threatening allergies in the school.

The parents/guardians of the child will:

- Bring life threatening allergies to the attention of the school administration at the beginning of each school year or upon registration at the school. A photo of the child along with the description of what the child is allergic to and what measures/medication must be taken to assist the child in case of an incident.

- Provide sufficient quantities of emergency medication or Epipens required. **Parents are responsible to ensure all medication left in the school is current (not past expiry date).**

School personnel will:

- Educate all students on the severity of the allergy and types of products that may prompt an allergic reaction
- Make staff aware in dealing with anaphylactic shock
- Advertise reminders of allergens home via newsletters, posters, word of mouth

Medical Issues

The Fort McMurray Public School Board has approved a policy concerning the administering of medication to students. There are very specific procedures with forms that must be completed by a parent and family doctor if a student is unable to self-administer medication.

We need to be able to reach a parent or a contact person if your child becomes ill or is hurt. Please ensure the school has current contact information.

Supervision

Supervision of students begins at 7:45 a.m. each school day and ends at 2:50 pm. There is no supervision of students provided prior to 7:45 a.m. or after 2:50 p.m. Students entering the school are expected to enter and exit via their assigned door. The exception to this rule is the junior high student privilege of entering at 7:45 and heading to either the Lion's Den (JH Lounge) or their classroom.

Visitors

For the safety of all people in the school, all visitors and volunteers are required to sign in at the school office. A visitor badge may be provided for the duration of the visit. In order to maximise instructional time for our students, parents are asked to leave lunches, books, other items, and messages for their children with office staff who will ensure your child receives the item(s).

If you wish to speak to a teacher, please make arrangements to meet outside of class time with some advance notice. Disruptions to instructional time impact all students in the classroom.

Traffic Safety

At times the area surrounding the school can be very busy. It is imperative that all vehicular traffic on the roads and in the parking lots on and surrounding the school grounds exercise the highest degree of caution and safe driving practices. It is also essential that all signs be strictly adhered to, especially "no parking," "handicap parking" and "bus loop /fire lane" signs.

Failure to do so may jeopardise the safety of children and others using the roads, sidewalks and parking lots around the school.



Physical Education

As Physical Education is a mandatory component of student education, all students are expected to participate to the best of their ability, to dress appropriately and to wear footwear appropriate for the activity.

Lost and Found

A Lost and found box is located at the school. Items will be put out on display tables periodically (Parent-Teacher Interviews, assembly times, etc.) to allow for easier inspection and retrieval. Any items that remain unclaimed will be discarded or donated to charity.

First Nations, Métis, Inuit (FNMI)

At FMCS, the integration of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) teachings is approached through a Biblical lens, recognizing the intrinsic value and wisdom of Indigenous cultures and traditions. Drawing inspiration from passages such as Revelation 7:9, which portrays a vision of people from every nation and tribe standing before the throne of God, the school community embraces diversity and seeks to create a welcoming space for FNMI students and families. FNMI teachings are an integral component of the Alberta curriculum, providing students with opportunities to explore and appreciate Indigenous knowledge and history. By learning these teachings, the school fosters a greater understanding of and respect for FNMI cultures, promoting reconciliation, unity, and justice in line with Biblical principles. Students are encouraged to engage in dialogue, participate in cultural activities, and learn from Indigenous elders and community members, recognizing that in embracing and valuing diverse perspectives, they can grow in their own faith and contribute to a more inclusive and harmonious society.

Please note that students will not be required to participate in spiritual practices outside of their Christian faith or individual tradition at FMCS.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

In our Christian school community, we recognize that discussions surrounding sexual orientation, gender identity, and Pride can evoke diverse perspectives and opinions. However, it is essential to affirm that we embrace all students with love, acceptance, and respect, regardless of their experiences in these areas. Grounded in the Biblical teaching that we are all created in the image of God and are called to love our neighbours as ourselves (Matthew

22:39), we strive to create a safe and inclusive environment for every student. We understand that some students may be grappling with questions of sexual orientation or gender identity, and we want them to know that they are valued members of our community. Our commitment to love extends to offering support, compassion, and understanding to those who may be experiencing these challenges. We encourage open dialogue, listening without judgement, and fostering an atmosphere where students feel safe to share their thoughts and feelings. Our aim is to walk alongside every student, demonstrating Christ-like love and providing resources, guidance, and a listening ear as they navigate their individual journeys.

Dress Code

The goal of the FMCS Dress Code is to help create an atmosphere, which is conducive to education. This means that students come to school prepared to work effectively with their classmates. They should appear well groomed and in properly fitted clothing that is appropriate to the situation and should dress modestly. The code does not attempt to embrace every conceivable situation in the realm of dress, but is meant to provide a reasonable standard for parents, faculty and students.

Principles

- To dress modestly, and live not for ourselves but for others. Modesty refers not only to avoiding that which is sensual but also to avoiding that which calls attention to oneself.
- Clothing should be appropriate for promoting the goal of academic excellence. It should therefore be comfortable for the wearer and appropriate for their daily activities. Clothing should not be a distraction for others.
- Parents, students and teachers will easily interpret a good dress code.

Student Code

- All aspects of dress should be neat, clean, and modest. Styles of hair, clothing, makeup and jewellery should be such as are age-appropriate and generally acceptable. No offensive printing or offensive pictures are allowed.
- Tops must fit properly with a modest, well-fitting neckline. Sheer material must have proper undergarments.
- Tube tops and spaghetti straps, or bare midriffs are not allowed as outerwear.
- Pants should fit so that undergarments or bare skin are not evident.
- Dresses, skirts and shorts must be no shorter than the point reached by the extended fingers when one's arm is at one's side.
- Students are required to have two pairs of shoes; inside shoes for the classroom and gym and outside shoes/boots for outside recess breaks.

Exceptions

- Students may be asked to dress more formally for certain public events such as field trips, concerts, farewells, ministry groups, game day for sports teams, etc.
- Students are permitted to dress more casually for sporting events, retreats, etc.
- Students are encouraged to dress appropriately for School Spirit days (Hawaiian Day, Western Day, etc.)

Accountability

- Parents are to ensure that their children understand and abide by the Dress Code.
- Teachers, who are to check during attendance that students are dressed properly, have the right to warn students who are not following the Dress Code (or the spirit of the Code). They are to take appropriate disciplinary measures including, informing the principal of those who are not following the Dress Code, and in the case of serious offences, removing students from the classroom until appropriate clothing is provided.
- Students wearing clothes deemed unacceptable will be asked to phone home for a change of clothes.
- The Principal will ensure that this policy is distributed to parents, students and teachers and take appropriate disciplinary measures for repeat offenders.

Fort McMurray Christian School Student Code of Conduct

*Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.
(Hebrews 12:11)*

The Bible provides our foundational view of each student: a unique individual bearing the image of God, and yet a sinful human in need of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The above verse challenges us to view our outward conduct as one aspect of discipleship. As such, teachers and school administration correct and encourage students when necessary. In so doing, students will become committed disciples of Christ who strive to do right and reject wrong.

Safe and caring school environments are free from:

- Threats or intimidation in any form
- Violence, abuse, or discrimination in any form
- Any sort of retribution against a person who has reported an incident

A school-wide approach to positive behaviour effectively promotes a safe, orderly, and predictable environment for learning and teaching. It facilitates student success, reduces

incidences of negative behaviours, and creates a school culture that is safe and caring. Positive behaviours are supported by, but are not limited to:

- Promoting and maintaining positive relationships between all members of the school community
- Articulating clear school-wide behaviour expectations
- Providing and supporting social skills instruction and problem-solving strategies
- Applying fair and predictable consequences for inappropriate behaviours, while respecting students' individual rights, responsibility, age, and maturity
- Positively reinforcing students, and groups of students, who consistently demonstrate positive behaviours
- Any necessary modifications to ensure the physical environment and school routines are organised to support positive and reduce negative behaviours

Inappropriate behaviours include, but are not limited to:

Level 1 Examples (usually addressed by classroom teachers or other school staff)

- Abusive or blasphemous language/profanity
- Teasing or harassment
- Chronic tardiness (Late 5x+)
- Classroom disruption
- Defiance or disrespectful behaviour
- Dishonesty
- Running or other unsafe movement in hallways, classrooms, on playground apparatuses, etc.

Level 2/3 Examples (may be referred to school administration, based on severity)

- Defacing of property, or littering
- Throwing of objects at others created in His image
- Inappropriate physical contact or aggression
- Inappropriate public displays of affection
- Inappropriate use of technology including: for teasing or cyberbullying, non-school related activities, viewing of inappropriate material (including but not limited to material that is sexual in nature; violent or promoting violence; relating to, or promoting the use of drugs, alcohol or other illegal activities).
- Repeated or acute defiance or disrespectful behaviour
- Repeated bullying/teasing or harassment
- Repeated classroom disruption
- Theft
- Unauthorised departure from school grounds or indoor spaces
- Use or possession of contraband substances (tobacco, alcohol or drugs)

Corrective strategies used by school staff, to address inappropriate behaviours, will depend upon: the particular behaviour and its frequency, circumstances or precipitating factors,

corrective strategies previously utilised, Individualised Program Plan/Special Needs. Teachers will determine any other expectations specific to their classrooms and...

Corrective strategies include a belief in Restorative Practice.

Restorative practice at Fort McMurray Christian School is rooted in the belief that all individuals are created in the image of God and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. When a student engages in inappropriate behaviour, rather than resorting to punitive measures, the school community embraces a restorative approach. Inspired by the Biblical passage from Galatians 6:1-2, which states:

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently.

The school seeks to address the harm caused by the student's actions through dialogue, accountability, and reconciliation. The process involves bringing together all affected parties, including the student, their peers, teachers, and administrators, to engage in open and honest conversation. Through this restorative circle, participants are encouraged to share their perspectives, express their emotions, and collectively determine the appropriate steps towards repair and restoration. By fostering understanding, empathy, and healing, Fort McMurray Christian School's restorative practice approach cultivates a supportive and transformative learning environment.

Where restorative practices fail to produce the intended results, following a thorough review of the incident, the school administrator may choose to do one or more of the following (not a complete list):

Level 1 Examples (usually implemented by classroom teachers or other school staff)

- Verbal reminders, self-reflection
- Modelling of the expected behaviour, skill-building
- Home contact, parent-school conferences

Level 2 Examples (may be implemented by school administration in conjunction with classroom teachers, other school staff, or the school district office)

- Counselling, mediation or restitution, low level non-violent crisis intervention (N.V.C.I.) techniques by trained staff
- Behaviour monitoring, behaviour contract or management plan
- Loss of privileges including: use of technology, participation in school events, riding school buses, etc.

Level 3 Examples (implemented by school administration, and in certain cases school staff, or the school district office)

- High level non-violent crisis intervention (N.V.C.I.) techniques
- In-school suspensions (I.S.S.) or out of school suspensions (O.S.S.) - As per Section 24, Alberta School Act

- Recommendation for expulsion from the school - As per Section 25, Alberta School Act

Staff members will consider all mitigating circumstances for disciplinary intervention and assure the due process for each student. Mitigating circumstances shall include but are not limited to the following factors:

- age, health, maturity and program placement
- pattern of misconduct
- attitude and cooperation of the student
- cooperation of parents
- willingness to make restitution
- seriousness of offence and need to protect other students or staff from the threat of imminent harm.
- in the case of bullying and harassment, the effect of the behaviour on the victim

Fort McMurray Christian School expectations for student behaviour and consequences are guided by:

- FMPSD, Administrative Procedure 350 *Student Rights and Responsibilities* (Amended 2018), and Administrative Procedure 350 - Appendix C *Student Conduct - Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe* (Amended 2018)
<https://www.fmpsdschools.ca/board/procedures/5049>
- Alberta School Act, Province of Alberta can be found [HERE](#).

Bullying - WITS Program

The WITS Program is geared towards culturally changing how we view conflict and peer victimisation that avoids trying to “fix” children. Rather, a change in school culture is what brings about minimization of bullying incidents. The focus is on providing students with strategies to manage peer conflict, and therefore prevent bullying and chronic victimisation

Students are taught by the local RCMP to **Walk** away, **Ignore**, **Talk** it out, and **Seek** help whenever confronted with a situation where others may be trying to harm them or purposefully make them feel bad. The WITS program unites community-based emergency service professionals, school staff, older students and parents to speak with one voice to help young children deal with peer conflict and victimisation.

School Clothing

If you would like to purchase school clothing ‘swag’ please visit <https://fortmcmurraychristianschool.entripyshops.com/> for a wide variety of t-shirts, hats, jackets, hoodies, etc.

If there is something in this document that you feel has not been addressed and should be included then please reach out to the school office by email at csinfo@fm-psd.ab.ca or phone at (780) 743-1079.

Last Updated June 27, 2024