

## **R.I. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

Principal

#### Jason Prebushewski

Vice Principal

### Krista Gaskell

2112 – 13 Street Coaldale, AB T1M 1L7 (403) 345-3340 FAX (403) 345-2577

## www.ribms.ca

This Agenda belongs to:

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## RIBMS Grade 5-8 Timetable 2017-2018

	Start	End	Total
			Minutes
Warning Bell	8:25		3
Period 1	8:28	9:17	49
Period 2	9:19	10:08	49
Period 3	10:10	10:59	50
Lunch/Recess	11:00	11:52	52
Period 4	11:55	12:44	49
Period 5	12:46	1:35	49
Break	1:35	1:45	10
Period 6	1:48	2:37	49
Period 7	2:39	3:29	50

## Monday – Thursday

## Friday

	Start	End	Total
	Start	Ellu	
			Minutes
Warning Bell	8:25		3
Period 1	8:28	9:20	52
Period 2	9:22	10:12	50
Break	10:12	10:32	20
Period 3	10:35	11:27	52
Period 4	11:29	12:21	52

#### **Dear Parents and Students**

The staff at R.I. Baker Middle School extends a warm welcome to you. We hope that this year will be one filled with new learning experiences and new friendships for your child(ren). We suggest that you enthusiastically involve yourself in the wide range of activities available to students, parents and members of the community at R.I. Baker. We are proud of our school programs. Through active participation, students can get the most out of our school; academically, physically and socially. This agenda will help you better understand the operation, procedures and programs at R. I. Baker. If there are any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to call the school at 403-345-3340.

#### The School

The original R. I. Baker School was built in 1949 and the new R. I. Baker Middle School was built in 2003, R. I. Baker Middle School serves a population of approximately 350 students. The school is unique in many ways:

- 1. We have students from Grade five to eight in a middle school setting.
- We have an award winning band program that serves nearly one half of our students.
- R.I. Baker offers an excellent drama program that is available to students of all grades. All students will have the opportunity to audition for the annual Spring production that takes place in April or May.
- 3. We offer a Hockey Academy that runs two hours, two times a week for Grade 5/6 and 7/8.
- One of our goals at R.I. Baker is to foster a sense of community. We feel that it is important for our staff, students, parents and all other people

who live in our community to know and care about each other.

#### **Office Hours**

Monday through Thursday	8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Friday	8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

#### School Philosophy

"R. I. Baker Middle School provides a learning experience that promotes the development of academic, social and emotional, physical and artistic attributes unique to early adolescence. We are committed to a secure, positive, challenging and exploratory approach in cooperation with parents and community."

#### We believe that:

- 1. All students are capable of learning.
- 2. All students and staff have the right to learn and work in a safe, nurturing environment that supports their individual strengths and needs.
- 3. Our students and staff respect the similiarities and differences among the indivduals who attend, visit or work at our school.
- 4. The school promotes academic excellence by meeting the goals and objectives prescribed by Alberta Education.
- 5. Our staff encourage the desire for life long learning.
- 6. Our students have the opportunity to participate in physical activities and to explore the practical and fine arts.
- 7. The integration of technology with curriculum is a primary tool for teachers and learners.
- 8. Parents, students, staff and community are all stakeholders in education and must be mutually supportive in order to ensure a satisfying, productive and affirming school environment.
- Students must take ultimate responsibility for their behaviour. Stakeholders must work together to support appropriate social behaviour and to foster independent decision-making, problemsolving and responsible self-discipline.

#### R. I. Baker Vision

Shaping tomorrow today.

#### **R.I Baker Mission Statement**

At R.I. Baker Middle School we foster an inclusive environment where we work together to succeed while taking pride in ourselves and our school.

#### Attendance and Absences

We ask that all students be prompt and attend school regularly. School doors open for students at 8:16AM each day. Parents are asked to report all absences by telephone (before 9:00 AM) at 1-844-260-7166 or Safe Arrival weblink: https//prs26.schoolconnects.com. The office will no longer be taking attendance by phone, text or email. Upon return to school, the student is to check in at the office. A student, who returns to school without a previous message from a parent, or a note, will be recorded as truant. Regular attendance is required, by law, until the age of 16. Poor attendance has a direct, negative effect on achievement.

#### Noon Hour

**Closed Campus:** Because of the younger age of our students and to comply with section 45(8) of the School Act (a safe and caring environment). We are a **closed campus.** 

There is a policy in this regard. We encourage all students in grades 5 through 8 to stay at school during the lunch hour. Special permission may be given through administration and a signed release form, but this privilege can also be revoked if misused at any time during the school year. It is our expectation for the following off campus privilege:

- Students going home for lunch have someone at home to meet them (grandparent, parent, or older sibling)
- 2. All students going home for lunch will return back promptly and timely for the end of lunch hour and must also sign in and out at the office everyday they leave.

#### <u>The Student</u>

Students in Alberta are under the jurisdiction of the Alberta Government . The Government has established a School Act that governs schools in the province. In accordance with the Act students shall conduct themselves so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:

- 1. be diligent in pursuing his/her studies,
- 2. attend school regularly and punctually,
- 3. co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education programs and other services,
- 4. comply with the rules of the school,

- 5. account to his/her teachers for their conduct,
- 6. respect the rights of others

At R.I. Baker Middle School we endeavor to develop responsible, caring and respectful members of society. If we wish our students and school to be successful, we need well defined expectations in the areas of academics and behavior.

A student's first responsibility is to be actively pursuing his/her studies at RIBMS. It is the goal of RIBMS staff to assist students with their learning. In addition to pursuing their studies students must also demonstrate positive behaviors. Students are held accountable for their choices. In addition to the appropriate consequences described in each Pod's handbook teachers will work proactively with parents and students towards helping them make better decisions in the future.

Other consequences may also be determined by administration after conferring with teaching staff. Students will achieve their greatest success when they recognize that academics and positive citizenship are the priority at RIBMS.

RIBMS's Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for student conduct. Certain rights and responsibilities must be recognized in order to make our school community a safe place where all can achieve their potential.

In this regard, students will:

- 1. Demonstrate a commitment to maintaining a safe and caring school
- 2. Conduct themselves so as to comply with the Alberta Governments Code of Conduct for all students
- 3. Be informed of this code of conduct and the possible consequences of non-compliance

If a student chooses not to comply with the rules and expectations, disciplinary action will be taken.

#### **Consequences**

Will be determined by the severity of the misbehavior and may include any of the following:

- a. loss of privileges: field trips, dances, class/grade celebrations, extra-curricular activities etc.
- b. in school suspension (ISS) for ½ or full day(s)

- c. out of school suspension (OSS). The principal may suspend a student from school for up to five days.
- d. expulsion: The School Board, upon recommendation from a principal, can expel a student from school.

#### In School Suspension (ISS)

The student remains in school. All privileges are suspended. Student brings lunch and eats in isolation; classes are not attended.

While on ISS, the student will be provided with materials and assignments that are relevant, realistic, and appropriate, and will be responsible for the completion of these assignments.

If the student is disruptive during an ISS, he/she will be given one warning. Should the disruptive behavior continue, he/she or an administrator will phone his/her parents/guardian to discuss being picked up at the school. If the parent/guardian is unable to pick up their son/daughter, he/she will arrange for an emergency person to do so. An out-of-school suspension may be initiated at this point. A record of the incident and student plan of action will be maintained for up to one year.

#### **Out of School Suspension (OSS)**

Out-of-school suspension is a formal disciplinary action for dealing with extremely disruptive and/or dangerous behavior. It involves short-term exclusion of a student from class, extra-curricular activities, school campus and the school bus.

#### Student's Rights and Responsibilities

1. Each student has the right to an education. Therefore it is each student's responsibility to listen, learn, practice, complete assignments and to accept remedial assistance when necessary. It is unacceptable to disturb, disrupt or interfere with the instruction of teachers and/or the learning of fellow classmates.

2. Each student has a right to be treated with dignity and respect. Therefore, it is each student's responsibility to treat others and their belongings with polite consideration. It is unacceptable to laugh at, tease or put down other people, whether students, staff or other adults.

3. Each student has the right to hear and be heard. Therefore, it is each student's responsibility to help maintain a calm and quiet school. It is

unacceptable to interrupt, shout or make noises when others are speaking or trying to listen.

4. Each student has the right to be safe and secure. Therefore, it is each student's responsibility to respect the physical safety of themselves and others in the school. Threats, intimidation, or any physical attempt to harm others is unacceptable.

5. Each student has the right to free expression in learning about themselves and others. In this respect, students are free to express their feelings and opinions as long as they are truthful, polite and respectful.

6. Each student has the right to be valued for their uniqueness. Therefore, it is each student's responsibility to respect others as individuals and treat them fairly.

7. Each student has the right to privacy and his or her own personal space. Therefore, it is each student's responsibility to respect others' personal property, and to accept their right to privacy.

#### **High Risk Behaviors and Prohibited Items**

It is of critical importance that students not bring articles to school that may pose a safety risk or be offensive.

The following is a list of possible items classified as contraband:

- weapons -energy drinks
- laser pointers
- matches
- lighters
- toy guns
- tobacco products
- drugs/alcohol

Students must not bring these or similar items to school under any circumstances. If these items arrive at school, they will be confiscated. Parents or guardians may claim the items by meeting with administration. Possession of contraband items may result in suspension or a recommendation for expulsion from the school.

Parents/Guardians are required to read and sign the 'Fair Warning of Zero Tolerance of High Risk Behaviors' letter at the beginning of the year. Parents and students must understand that threats, either verbal or physical, will be taken seriously and will be followed by a 'Threat Assessment'. For further information on threat and threat assessment protocol, see Administrative Procedure #317 – Threat Assessment Protocol on the Palliser website: <u>www.pallisersd.ab.ca</u>.

#### **RIBMS Dress Code**

The primary objective at RIBMS is the academic success of all students; consequently, the dress policy allows for the conditions most conducive to learning, that students can work comfortably and without distracting or disturbing others. The key principles of the policy call for dress to be CLEAN, NEAT and MODEST.

Students dressed inappropriately will be asked by their homeroom teacher to go to their lockers and change into appropriate clothing. It is understood that students will do this quickly and that the inappropriate clothing will be covered **FOR THE DAY.** If no appropriate clothing is available, the students will be directed to the office to either call home for suitable clothing, or be provided with clean clothing at the office. If a student needs to wait for a parent to bring appropriate clothing, the student will wear what is provided at the office for the interim, in order that the student can return to the classroom as soon as possible. The student can then go to the office at the next break to change into the appropriate clothing supplied by the parent.

Specific items that will not be worn to school include:

- Slippers
- Spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, tube and halter tops
- Transparent or see-through fabrics
- Short tops that expose the midriff at ANY time
- Low cut tops
- Short shorts, skirt, or skorts( length will be at staff members) discretion.
- T-shirts that are in poor taste\*
- Hats and headgear (bandannas, skull caps etc.)
- Jackets and coats are not to be worn in the classrooms
- Clothing that is designated underwear should be kept undercover

\*the dress code policy specifically prohibits clothing that contains logos or advertisements for drugs, alcohol, weapons or tobacco; that contains or implies messages with sexual innuendo, or that appears to promote racism, discrimination, hate or illegal activities. The dress policy applies to all school activities – dances, field trips, PE classes and extra-curricular sports practices, etc.

#### **Cell Phone and Electronic Devices Policy**

While improvements in technology, both in equipment and capabilities, continue to expand, and while the educational use of technology for students will continue to play an important role in the education of students in our school, decisions need to be made as to the educational and personal use of that technology.

The use of cell phones by students during the school day is prohibited without permission from a staff member. Adequate access to telephones is provided to students within the school should they need to use them. Cell phones are to be kept in lockers or backpacks and **turned off** for the day. Students who have or are using cell phones without permission from a staff member during the school day will have them taken immediately and given to administration. Parents can be asked to pick up cell phones after school.

Inappropriate use of electronic devices, i.e., Ipods, MP3 players, Game Boys, etc., can interfere with the teaching and learning process. During class time, these devices must remain in student's lockers unless permission is given by a staff member. If these devices are brought into the classroom without permission, they will be taken by the staff member and the device will be held at the office until the parent picks it up.

Cameras are also included in this category. They can pose a distraction to the learning environment and may contravene FOIP (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act). Unless used for academic purposes, cameras should not be brought to school.

All students who chose to bring personal electronic devices to school or on school events will do so at their own risk. RIBMS will not be responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged devices. These items are solely the responsibility of the student.

Parents or volunteers who come into the school are asked to limit their use of cell phones to areas and times that do not interfere with the learning environment of the school including classrooms, concerts, assemblies or any such place where students are gathered. Compliance with this policy protects the rights and privacy of all our students and does not distract from the learning environment of the classroom or school in general. Parents and volunteers who assist in our school are asked to adhere to this policy as well when they are visiting or helping in our school.

Date	Description – Formal	Informal
	Plan	
Sept.	<ul> <li>Meet the Teacher Night. Parents attend &amp; meet teachers, then go into classrooms to receive information and ask questions re: course outlines/academ ic and behavioral expectations.</li> <li>Teachers review student records.</li> <li>Learning Support Teacher (LST) schedules meetings with teachers, assistants, and parents to discuss and begin planning IPPs for students with severe learning needs.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Parents are encouraged and invited to participate/open door policy of our school.</li> <li>If a parent has a concern or question parents should discuss with teacher involved first.</li> <li>Teachers monitor student progress – academically and socially. If there are areas of concern, homeroom or teacher involved calls parents.</li> <li>Tests/projects sent home for signatures.</li> <li>Use of agenda books.</li> <li>Use of website to keep students/parents abreast of homework and important memos.</li> </ul>

## **RIBMS Communication Plan**

Maximilia	
November	Progress Report
	#1
	Interview #1. All
	parents are
	encouraged to
	attend
	interviews.
	Focus is on
	transition to that
	specific grade
	and
	academic/social
	progress of the
	child.
	Parents with
	students with
	mild/moderate
	IPP's: IPP's are
	sent home one
	week prior to
	First interview.
	Parents are
	invited to
	provide input
	and return IPP's
	at subsequent
	interviews.
	Interviews serve
	as the meeting
	to update and
	review IPP.
	All IPP meetings     for students
	for students with severe
	codes will have
	been conducted, and IPPs are
	formalized and
	implemented.
	Ongoing

	communication between home and school is encouraged and facilitated. • Synervoice will send messages to parents reminding them of interviews.
November	<ul> <li>Report Card #1.</li> <li>Signature required on envelope.</li> </ul>
March	<ul> <li>Interview #2. All parents are encouraged to attend interviews. Focus is on academic/social progress of the child.</li> <li>Parents with students with mild/moderate IPP's: IPP's are sent home one week prior to interviews. Parents are invited to provide input and return IPP's at interviews. Interviews. Interviews. Interviews serve as the meeting to update and review IPP.</li> </ul>

	• The LST will
	schedule
	meetings with
	parents,
	teachers, and
	learning
	assistants to
	review severe
	coded IPPs and
	adjust the IPP to
	reflect growth
	and update
	planning to
	support areas of
	need. Ongoing
	communication
	between home
	and school is
	encouraged and
	facilitated.
	Synervoice will
	send messages
	to parents
	reminding them
	of interviews
March	Report Card #2.
	Signature
	required on
	envelope.
May	LST begins
	achievement
	assessments to
	assist with
	progress review
	and future
	program
	planning for
	students with
	severe codes.
	• LST schedules

	•	annual IPP review meetings with parents and teaching teams of students with severe codes. LST begins working with JEE and KAHS towards effective planning of transitions for students with severe codes. Ongoing communication between home and school is encouraged and facilitated.	
June	•	Mild moderate are IPP's sent home. Parents to review and add info for development of IPP in the fall. Returned to school.	
June	•	Report Card #3 and Final Report Card	

School Fees are due the first Friday of September or arrangements made with the Principal. Students will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular events until the fees are paid or arrangements made.

#### **RIBMS Plagiarism / Cheating Policy**

At RIBMS, we encourage and value work which is original. In order to prevent students plagiarizing, teachers will:

- 1. Teach students what plagiarism is, both in terms of information or ideas must be properly cited.
- 2. Teach students how to properly cite work.
- 3. Teach students how to take appropriate notes.
- 4. Encourage students to value their original work.

All situations involving consequences for behavior must involve an examination of all variables.

Recognizing that each situation is contextual, below is the protocol, which will generally be followed in situations where plagiarism has been discovered.

- 1. Parents will be informed of the infraction.
- 2. As students need to demonstrate and provide evidence of their learning, they will re-do the assignment and hand it in
- Student may serve a ½ day ISS for the second offense. During the ISS the focus of the time will be spent on doing work which the class is learning during the ISS. The assignment in question can be worked on, once the daily work has been completed.

The assignment will receive a NC (not complete) until the assignment has been completed properly. If the assignment is not completed prior to a progress report or report card, the grade will be entered as a 0, until the assignment has been completed and marks can be entered.

#### **Athletic Policy**

An Athletic Handbook will be handed out to each athlete participating in a sport at R.I. Baker Middle School to explain the Athletic Policy.

#### **School Safety and Emergency Procedures**

**Fire Drills:** Regularly scheduled fire drills are held so that students can practice the appropriate procedures in case of a real fire. Fire exits are posted in each room and exit routes are well defined, specific to each room in the school.

**Emergency Procedures:** Specific protocols have been developed for our school in the event that a lock down, an evacuation or an off-site emergency is initiated. Procedures are reviewed with staff and students and practiced at various times throughout the year. Students are expected to act accordingly in all drills.

**School Entrances:** In order to help ensure the safety of our students, we keep all school entrances locked throughout the day, except the main (east) entrance. Students can exit the building at any time but strangers cannot enter from the outside during school hours.

#### Activities

**Inter School Athletic Teams:** RIBMS participates in the COLJHAA (County of Lethbridge Junior High Athletic Association) and the LSAA (Lethbridge Schools Athletic Association) in the sports of volleyball, basketball, badminton and track and field.

**School Clubs:** From time to time teachers may organize activities at noon or after school for students. These activities are open to all students and depend on student interest and participation.

#### **Operations and Procedures**

**Infirmary:** When students are not feeling well, an attempt will be made to reach parents or guardians for direction on their welfare. However, if contact cannot be made, a student may be admitted into the infirmary after consulting with an Administrator.

Lates: An "Admittance Book" is located in the general office for students to sign when they are late for morning or afternoon registration. Please refer to the bell schedule for stop/end times. Classroom doors will be shut when the attendance bell sounds and students not in class at that time must come to the office for admittance. Students must bring their agenda book with them to the general office to be stamped with the admittance stamp and authorized before proceeding to class. Parents will be notified if their child is late on a recurring basis.

Signing out: If students must leave 4the school, they shall record this information at the general office before they leave. Verification from parents is needed by a staff member before students are allowed to leave the school grounds.

**Attendance**: Attendance policies are outlined in Sections 12, 13, 14 and 15 of the School Act of Alberta. There is a strong correlation between attendance and effective education. Students registered in school shall attend regularly and punctually and it is the ultimate responsibility of the

parents to ensure compliance with this requirement. Phone calls notifying the school of absence would be greatly appreciated and can be made to **345-3340** (after hours leave a message). If attendance becomes a problem, then missed time will need to be made up after school, and in extreme circumstances there will be a request for assistance from the Attendance Board through our Palliser Regional Schools Truancy Officer.

**Bicycles** /**Skateboards:** For the safety of students, parents and staff, once school begins in the morning, 8:20, all wheeled apparatus are to be walked to the doors and placed in a secure location. After school, wheeled devices are not to be used, at any entrance/exit until after the last bus leaves the school property.

**Bicycles & Scooters:** Students who ride bicycles/scooters to school are requested to park and lock them in the bike racks provided at the SW corner of the school.

**Roller blades/Skateboards:** Skateboards and roller blades used by students to get to and from school must be securely stored in their lockers.

**Student Agendas:** All students received an agenda as part of their rental package and are expected to use it and keep it in good repair. The agenda serves many important functions that assist with the smooth operation of the school including:

- listing important school information for students
- serving as an admit to class verification
- serving as a communication book between home and school

Students should treat their agenda with respect, leaving them useable for the entire year. Pages should not be ripped out, nor should the cover be defaced in any way. Students losing their agendas will purchase another one from the general office for **\$5.00**.

#### Acceptable Use of Technology

Students are required to sign Policy #140 documentation concerning the appropriate use of technology equipment and sites. Students found using technology inappropriately will have their access to technology terminated for a specified amount of time or possibly for the entire year. Students and parents are encouraged to read Policy #140 and make sure they understand the guidelines and expectations of that policy. Documentation for Policy #140 must be signed and returned before students are allowed access to technology.

**Medication Policy:** For the protection and safety of all students who attend RIBMS and keeping within the policy established by Palliser Regional Schools, all medication must be kept in the general office. Medication administered by school personnel must be in the original prescription container provided by the pharmacy, with the prescription number, doctor's name and directions clearly visible. Authorization forms to administer meds are available at the general office.

Students must bring their agenda to the general office to be stamped at the time of administration of meds, so we can communicate with parents and school staff that medication has been given.



## Palliser Hockey Academy for Students Gr. 5-8



# Sept. through Mar. 2017-2018

On-ice instruction by former NHL Defenseman Bruce Bell and is assisted by Mr. Smith. The focus of the program is on skill development. Goalies are also welcome on the ice. Grades 5 and 6 are on the ice on Mondays and Wednesdays. Grades 7 and 8 are on the ice on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students involved with the hockey program miss period 3, twice a week. At present, students involved with hockey will miss 2 Physical Education classes per week. Students involved with the hockey program can still be involved with exploratories. Participating in the hockey program is a privilege and if student behavior or academics is suffering, a meeting can be held to hold back hockey until the problem improves.

# **R.I. Baker Middle School**

2 hours ice time per week

50 hours total ice time

Cost \$300.00

For program information

R.I. Baker: 345-3340

Student Handbook

Acknowledgement Form

2017-2018

Please complete form and return to the main office.

Student's Name (please print)

Grade

Our signatures indicate that we have read and will support our child in the following R.I. Baker Middle School 2017- 2018 school procedures:

Code of Conduct – Student's Rights and Responsibilities - High Risk Behaviors and Prohibited Items - Dress Code Cell Phone Policy – Electronics Policy – Athletic Policy-Plagiarism Policy

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

#### R. I. Baker Middle School Student Safety Pledge Commitment to School Safety

As a student of R.I. Baker Middle School, I pledge to help ensure that my school is a safe place to attend and to learn in. With my pledge, I promise to share with a teacher, counselor, or administrator any information that could result in someone being injured or harmed. If I am uncertain of the seriousness of the concern, I will report it and allow the adults to make that judgment. I believe that my school should be a place where all students are treated with respect, receive a quality education, and feel safe. I understand that I may remain anonymous when I report my concern. I may also give my name when reporting, and if I do, my report will remain confidential.

Recognizing that every student has the right to a safe environment where everyone is treated with respect:

- I understand that I have an essential role in school safety and violence prevention.
- I will immediately report any threats of violence, suicide, presence of weapons or explosives to a school administrator, counselor, or teacher to allow them to investigate and determine the seriousness of the report.
- I will do all I can to stop the harassment of others.
- I will promote the acceptance of individual differences, recognizing that diversity contributes to the strength of R.I. Baker Middle School.

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_