

Mrs. Coverdale's Grade 6 Handbook



Hello CCA families!

Cochrane Christian Academy 2023/2024

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WELCOME BACK!! After a very lovely summer, I am excited for the start of a new year, and I cannot wait to get to know my new students. Moving up to grade six can be challenging, but I look forward to all the learning we will be doing together!

MRS. COVERDALE: I am both the Grade Six homeroom teacher as well as learning support for Middle School. I teach all the main cores and all-day Friday. This means that our grade six students have a variety of teachers. Mrs. Olson is an intergyral part of our classroom.

I have been teaching in Canada, with Rocky View Schools, since 2014. Before that, I graduated from the University of Calgary in 1991, and got married the next day! With our two sons, we moved to Mexico for four years and had our daughter at the orphanage clinic. I worked with many of the missionary families and helped them with homeschooling and began homeschooling my own kids. In 2001, we moved to Belize and built our jungle home and In His Will Ministries. I continued to homeschool my kids, and we established a library and learning center. I have taught, built, been a principal, tutored, ran various education programs for students and teachers, and most importantly discipled many about the importance of living in the fullness Jesus has for them. With our now adult children, and grand-boy, we have been living in Canada for 10 years. I am so thankful for God's faithfulness and for the opportunity I have to teach at a Christian school.

It is with JOY that I look forward to working with your children and discovering with them the wonder of learning about God's great love for us as well as the grade six curriculum.

MRS. OLSON: I am excited to be teaching your child this year. I graduated from the University of Calgary in 2018 with my Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Kinesiology (with honors). I have been in classrooms ever since and with Rockyview for the majority of that time. I have 2 boys at home; ages 9 and 3. I enjoy walking, bike riding and watching shows. I am looking forward to meeting you and your child this year. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments. I can be reached through email at bolson@rockyview.ab.ca

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I am excited to see what God has for our classroom community this year. Our classroom theme this year will be "I/You/We can do ALL things through Christ who gives us strength." As overcomers, God's truth helps us discover our identity in Christ and His purpose for our lives. Walking in patience, perseverance and persistence and standing on God's promises bring us hope, joy and strength! We will be exploring the truths of how God sees us as His children, learning to spend time Him through prayer, reflections, and journaling, as well as memorizing God's Word. Understanding that we need to be anchored in God's Word and knowing His character and purpose for our lives is important.

Here are some important notes for the school year:

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Please send ALL school supplies to school the first day of school as we will sort through them first thing. Some of the supplies I will keep with me and store for when we need them. It is important that students have ALL their school supplies available as we can use them at any time. Because we have half lockers, I will probably be sending back home some supplies for storage. You can find my school supply list on the school website under my name.

FOOTWEAR & GYM STRIP

Students are expected to have a pair of indoor shoes. We will be enforcing this during all seasons. Please be sure your child has a pair of indoor shoes that are available daily. Grade six students change into gym strips and are required to wear shoes suitable for sports (these can be their indoor shoes if appropriate).

TECHNOLOGY

Students can have one to one technology, laptop, for SCHOOL USE only. Students will need to submit the Use of Technology and respect the RVS standards for use of personal devices within the school. Please note that **all personal phones are not permitted in the classroom or to be seen on school grounds.** Phones may come to school, but they need to be always kept away in the lockers.

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

If you have any questions or concerns, the best way to contact us is through my email at ycoverdale@rockyview.ab.ca, bolson@rockyview.ab.ca. I would be happy to set up an after-school meeting with you at any point of the school year. I send weekly to bi-weekly emails that will keep you updated on our learning outcomes, homework, events happening in our classroom, and overviews of our learning. Please read these carefully.

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I use Google Classroom (GC) extensively for in class work in each subject area. Google Classrooms **are rarely considered homework** but are in class work. There will be times students will need access to GC for either extended absences or as catch-up work, but I will have communicated this with you.

X: I am on X and often have postings daily on our daily happenings. As FOIP forms are filled you may also get a glimpse of your child doing something amazing! @ccagrade5

Students will have access to agendas this year; however, I tend to relay information more by email. I am hoping agendas will work well this year.

ATTENDANCE

Please, let me (and the office) know if your child will be absent or away on vacation. Grade six is a packed year, and students can struggle to keep up if they are missing school. Rocky View has noticed a significant change in attendance this past year and the effects of this has been evident.

MY BLUEPRINT

Rocky View Schools is using the My Blueprint program as a tool to facilitate student reflection and learning. My Blueprint is a kid-friendly, interactive portfolio tool that allows K-6 students to reflect on their learning, showcase their growth, and share their achievements. They can easily navigate through the portfolio, explore occupations, write journal entries, set goals, and upload files, pictures, videos, drawings, and audio recordings. My Blueprint can be accessed by each student's family. Your child's teacher will send a request to your email address. Stay tuned for an email regarding My Blueprint parent access from your child's teacher in the coming weeks.

VOLUNTEERING

It is with great joy that we can have parent volunteers and guests into our school! I have many activities, walks and field trips that I would love to have you join us for. I will ask for help during these opportunities through emails. Please remember, you need to have current police checks to join us in any capacity.

RECESS

All students are expected to go outside for lunch recess as well as during our daily breaks. Please send your child with appropriate outdoor clothing as students need to be prepared for changes in weather. Special indoor recess exceptions are made for extreme weather conditions. Our recess times are at 9:45 and 12:00.

SNACK AND LUNCHES

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Your child will be eating their snacks and lunch at their desks. They will not have access to a microwave; therefore, if they have warm food, it must be sent in a thermos. I encourage you to pack healthy snacks for your child to eat each morning as this will reinforce the themes being taught in Health class. **I have also found that those growing grade 6 bodies need an afternoon snack as well. BOOMERANG** - what you bring in your lunch goes home with you.

WATER BOTTLES

All children need to be drinking water throughout their school day to help them concentrate. They will be sent home daily for cleaning.

HOMEWORK

The purpose for homework is to review skills, involve parents in the learning process and help your child take responsibility for their learning. Grade six has more homework than elementary, and students should be prepared for about **1-2 hours a week plus reading at home for a minimum of 20 minutes a day**.

The first week of each month students will be given **"Monthly News"** to complete. These can be completed any time, but they need to be completed by the due date. The Monthly News booklets are a part of both their Social and Language Arts grade.

Students may also be asked to do research on topics which require parental assistance. Research gathering will be announced well in advance as will any larger projects that may require some work at home if there is not class time to finish. Work not finished during regular class time may be sent home and should be returned completed for the next morning.

Regular Mathletics assignments will be set up, and students will be given an opportunity to start the assignment, and then will have the option to complete some of it at home. It is never my intention for students to spend more than 20 minutes an evening on any Mathletics assignments.

PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS (PAT): Grade six is a PAT year, and as such we will be reviewing material throughout the year. Students are to keep all their work, so we can review their learning. Because students need to practice test taking skills, we will have regular assessments throughout each of their core courses.

Some more assignments that may be considered for homework:

WORD WORK: Students will have Word Work (spelling and vocabulary development) quizzes each week to 10 days which can be reviewed.

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MATH FACTS AND CONCEPT REVIEW: Knowing Math facts is imperative in grade 6 and should be reviewed often. This can be done easily on Mathletics. I will also have weekly assignments set up to review the concepts we are learning.

HOME READING PROGRAM & 30 BOOK GENRE CHALLENGE: Reading is one of the greatest skills that we keep developing in Grade 6. Students will be a part of a 30 Book Genre Challenge and some of these can even be done at home. PLEASE send me a note to verify each book your child has read at home – these can be written in agendas or an email to me. Students need to document the title, author, page numbers, and genre of the books they have read.

KAHOOTS: I use Kahoot quizzes as a way for students to practice all Social and Science "Show What You Knows" (SYWK). Please set up an adult account so you can access these as needed.

MEMORY VERSES: Each week to 10 days, your child will have a Bible verse to memorize. My hope and prayer are to make this a much more personal experience for your child and your family. Students will have the opportunity to draw, journal, write or speak the verse for each week. Please note that spelling does not count. Memory verses are worth 20% of the Christian Studies mark and are also necessary for the end of the Memory Verse Metals.

IXL: This is an online math website that CCA uses to help students practice and review their math skills. It gives online support, direct feedback, and provides steps to achieving the correct answer. The students will be sent home with a copy of their IXL account information as well as any other sites they will need within the next couple of weeks.

BIRTHDAYS

Parents are invited to send store-bought, individually pre-packaged food and treats to school with their child for such events as birthdays and special classroom celebrations (please consult your child's teacher for specific classroom routines). All food sent to school to be shared with the class must be commercially packaged. This means such items as cake, cupcakes, and cookies baked and packaged at home (wrapped with cellophane) are not permitted. In addition, all packaged items must be labelled 'NUT FREE.' If baked at home or not labelled 'nut free,' the food will be returned home with the child who brought it to school.

BOOK ORDERS

Each month the children will be given the opportunity to purchase books from the Scholastic Book Club Program. A percentage of the sale will be used to expand our classroom library and purchase classroom materials. This is an optional program that

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provides families with an opportunity to purchase quality books at reasonable prices. The due date for placing an order will be on Google Classroom: Homework. Your child's order will take about two weeks to arrive. More information on this program will be sent home with your child. **PLEASE MAKE ALL CHEQUES OUT TO VICKY COVERDALE** or order online as I use my personal credit card when I make the orders. NOTE: If you are wanting book recommendations for your child, please email me. I would be happy to help.

LOCKERS

Students will be issued lockers on the first day. There will be weekly locker inspections, so students understand the importance of effective organization. All lock combinations (or a key) must be given to me. We will practice their locks on the first day, but please try to make sure your child knows how to use their locks before they bring them. Locks can be purchased at our office through our online cash account.

I am looking forward to all that this year holds for me and your children! Please keep us in your prayers as we begin this learning journey together. Please do not hesitate to contact me throughout the year!

Blessings,
Mrs. Vicky Coverdale, BEd
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X Account: @CCAGrade5