



Rocky View schools

# MS. VAN DEN BERG'S CLASSROOM

2023 - 2024

**GRADE 1 HANDBOOK**

# Meet the Teacher

## WELCOME TO MS. VAN DEN BERG'S CLASS!



### COMMUNICATION

I will send a brief email with classroom news every Friday. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments throughout the year. Email is typically the best way to get in touch with brief questions. However, if you have a pressing concern please call me at the school. I check my email every day and do my best to respond to emails on the same day they are sent, however some days are busier than others. I do step away from email over the weekend.

Another great way to stay connected with what is going on in the classroom, is by checking your child's agenda. They will keep you informed about important classroom news as well as what we are learning.

### CONTACT DETAILS

Email: [jvandenberg@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:jvandenberg@rockyview.ab.ca)  
Website: <http://cca.rockyview.ab.ca/elementary>

### ABOUT ME

My name is Ms. Josine van den Berg and I have been teaching for 15 years! I am so excited to be back at CCA this year to continue teaching grade 1 students. I

I have taught every grade from K-12, but love grade 1 because it is so special to teach a child how to read. I have a bachelor in education degree from the University of Alberta and a master in education degree from the University of Portland.

I live in the mountains with my husband Paul and my son Tomas. In my free time I like go outside to enjoy His creation to hike, bike, or ski.

### TELL ME ABOUT YOU!

You will be receiving a short activity for you to complete with your child for me to get to know them a little bit more! It won't be long, simply a little note to help me get to know your child better and help them learn in the best way that I can. If you could fill this out and send it back to school with your child in their agenda it would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to getting to know you and your amazing grade one child this year!

# ***Classroom Routines & Procedures***

## ***WATERBOTTLES & FOOD:***

Please send a water bottle to school with your child. It will be sent home at the end of the day and I ask that they be washed each evening to avoid any spreading of germs. The students have snack time in the morning. I encourage students to make healthy choices in their snack during this time (i.e.: fresh fruit, vegetables, yogurt etc.) Please try to avoid sending candy, chips, cupcakes etc. Our morning snack is designated for healthy choices to fuel our bodies and brains. For lunch time, the students will not have access to a microwave so please ensure all hot items are sent in a thermos. Our school also participates in the Boomerang lunch program, which means what students pack in they also pack out. Any garbage, juice boxes, plastic wrappers etc. need to be put back in their lunch kit and taken home.

## ***AGENDA:***

Your child will be writing daily agenda messages. Their message could include what they have learned that day for you to ask them about, reminders, special events coming up, forms and other notes. Please check their agenda each night for any communication as it is a great way to engage in your child's learning. Also, if you have any communication notes for me please write them in the agenda, as I check them every morning when the kids come in. This will ensure a prompt reply.

## ***VOLUNTEERS:***

Once we settle into our classroom routines, volunteers are greatly appreciated and welcomed into our class. It is our school policy that all of our volunteers (whether for field trips, or in the classroom) complete a valid criminal record check and security clearance for the office to keep on file. Please see our school secretary, Angie Watts, for the necessary forms. I will send out updates through the newsletter and emails that will notify you of any upcoming volunteer events if you wish to help out. Stay tuned for more information!

## ***HOME READING & HOMEWORK:***

Home reading with your child has wonderful benefits! Next month, we will start our Home Reading program. I will be sending home a folder with a reading log for them to track the books you read together throughout the year. I will send home additional work when needed. I will also send home sight word lists. A new list will be sent home each week for you to work on with your child. The list will go home on Monday and they will have their test on Friday. At CCA students also participate in Scripture Memory. Students will learn a new verse every 2 weeks. Please help them practice at home. More information will follow in the coming weeks!

## **CLOTHING & SHOES:**

Please make sure your child has a pair of outdoor AND indoor shoes as well as an extra change of clothes in the case of an accident, slip into mud, spill etc. It always helps having an extra set of clothes on hand. I will keep those in the classroom for the year. **MAKE SURE YOU LABEL ALL ITEMS BEING SENT TO SCHOOL** (clothing, shoes, backpacks, lunch kits, etc.) Thank you in advance.

## **BIRTHDAYS:**

Birthdays are very important reasons to celebrate and I know students love sharing their day with friends! If you would like to send a special treat to school with your child on their birthday please send me an email or note in their agenda with the details in advance. This year, 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. All food sent to school to be shared with the class must be commercially packaged. This means items such 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 your child has birthday invitations they would like to hand out, please send them with your child and I will discretely help your child put them into the corresponding agendas.

## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES:**

All of the traditional school supplies such as notebooks, pencils, pencil crayons, etc. are provided by the school. The only supplies I ask students to bring are: comfortable headphones (clearly labeled in a ziplock bag), a paint shirt, a box of Kleenex and as previously mentioned an extra change of clothes) If you would like to contribute additional supplies to the class we are always looking for donations for the following items below. Any donations are greatly appreciated!

- Kleenex
- Plastic ziplock bags
- Plastic forks or spoons

Despite the exciting new toys and technology students acquire throughout the year, I ask that they stay at home to avoid the items being misplaced or they can also be a distraction in the classroom. I appreciate your support with this.

## **NEWSLETTER:**

I will be sending out an email every Friday. This will inform you about what we are working on in class, our author of the month, memory verses, academics and Christian studies, as well as important dates and a few pictures to give you a snapshot what daily life in grade 1 is all about.

## ***DROP OFF/PICK UP & BUS ROUTINE:***

A staff member will welcome your child in the morning and direct them toward the Grade 1 doors and the classroom. If your child takes the bus, please familiarize yourself with the correct protocol as it is important for their safety. Each child who rides the bus must have a bus pass attached to their backpack, somewhere visible and ensure that their bus route number is written on the pass. When it is time to load, a supervisor will take the children and load them onto their correct bus. As the year progresses and the students are comfortable and familiar with the procedures, they will be allowed to walk directly to their bus after dismissal. Students who get picked up will be released by a teacher at their designated location. An adult will always remain with them until they are picked up. If an alternate arrangement is made for your child to be picked up please write a note in their agenda or contact the school to let me know.

## ***BIBLE MEMORY & PRAYER:***

I am very grateful to be a part of school that values and prioritizes prayer as a daily practice. It would be lovely for you to join us in prayer as we take on this exciting year of grade one together! CCA participates in a Bible Memory Program. The children will be provided a series of Bible verses that relate to the topics of study within the classroom and they will be given the opportunity to practice and memorize the verses on a bi-weekly basis. At the end of the year, children successful in their memory verses will be rewarded with a scripture memory medal. I will email and send home a copy of our Bible memory verses for your reference.

## ***FIELD TRIPS & OUTDOOR LEARNING:***

Grade one students typically attend a few field trips a year that require entrance fees and busing costs. In addition, we will be making frequent outings to enjoy the outdoors around the school as part of our daily physical activity and Walk Wednesday program (not part of the field trip counts and no cost). Please ensure your child is prepared and dressed for the weather each day. I will include this in the agenda message or send an email when we plan to be outside for more than recess or gym time.

**REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS. I WILL SAY IT AGAIN: REJOICE! LET YOUR GENTLENESS BE EVIDENT TO ALL. THE LORD IS NEAR. DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT IN EVERY SITUATION, BY PRAYER AND PETITION, WITH THANKSGIVING, PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD. AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH TRANSCENDS ALL UNDERSTANDING, WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND YOUR MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS. PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7**

I look forward to this school year in our new building and meeting your child. I feel hopeful that there will be many blessings coming our way as we navigate this school year. In our classroom we will practice gratitude for all our blessings and speak out our worries. We will lift them up to God and let him take care of what we don't understand. I trust His peace will guard our heart and mind.