

Grade 8

Handbook



RIBMS Grade 8 Handbook

The Grade 8 Pod consists of teachers, learning support teachers and support assistants. We all look forward to a wonderful year with your son or daughter. It is our hope that each student will have a great year and will fulfill his or her responsibilities as a student. This involves preparation for class, homework and exemplary behavior.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with information that will make your understanding of the grade seven experience more complete and to answer any questions that you may have. The following items are enclosed:

1. School website/contact information
2. Listing of staff
3. Year End Celebrations & Assembly
4. Student recognition policy
5. Year-end recognition policy
6. Cell Phone policy

School Website and Contact Info

R.I. Baker Middle School's website address is www.ribms.ca. The monthly newsletter will be automatically emailed to you, however, you can still access it through our website. The school phone number is (403) 345-3340. To reach your child's teacher please use the email addresses as follows: firstname.lastname@pallisersd.ab.ca. For example: jeff.smith@pallisersd.ab.ca.

The school calendar is also available at the RIBMS website, and a copy of the calendar is in your child's agenda.

PowerSchool

R.I. Baker Middle School uses PowerSchool, an online parent portal for academic communication with parents and students. The parent portal is 24/7 online access to your child's grades and assignments. Your child's information and grades will be updated on the first of every month, and you can print off a report at any time during the year. If you need assistance with login or viewing of information, please contact the school. Computers are available at the school for your use if required.

You can access it through this link:

<https://ps.pallisersd.ab.ca/public/home.html>

Grade 8 Core Teachers

Mrs. D. Berry-Furtado - Math
Mrs. N. Rice - Science
Mrs. C. Friesen - Science
Mrs. C. Netzel - Language Arts
Mrs. A. McDougall - Language Arts
Mr. J. Smith - Social Studies
Mrs. B. Dyck - Learning Support Teacher

Class Expectations

1. For a student to experience success at the middle school level they must be prepared to work which includes having all supplies, a school agenda, a reading book and all completed class work.
2. Students with accommodations to their programs may have different expectations.
3. Students are expected to hand in all work on time.
4. Teachers will communicate homework and behavior concerns with parents/guardians by any of the following:
 - Phone call
 - Email
5. Teachers provide opportunities for extra help or for class work to be completed. Please see individual teachers for available times.

Cell Phone Policy

Electronic devices are expected to be in student's lockers at all times. However, some classes use these for academic purposes and teachers will communicate with students when they will be required.

Year End Celebrations

Calaway Park

An end-of-the-year celebration is also held to celebrate the achievements of the grade 8s throughout the course of the year. This trip is a privilege for all grade 8 students! The main criteria are as follows:

- 1) Attention to being a good citizen of RIBMS.
- 2) Actively pursuing your academics. It is the pod's intent that all students attend this outing, **but it is also possible that students lose this privilege** as a result of poor attendance, poor academic effort or irresponsible behavior. **Throughout the year, the grade 8 teachers will be in touch with students and parents if that particular student is not fulfilling the above criteria to the expected standard.**

Year End Assembly

In addition to the Calaway Park trip, it is customary at RIBMS to host a “farewell ceremony” for the Grade 8s at the end of the year. Although not an overly formal affair, the entire student body is present and every student is recognized (see recognition policy). Of course, parents and guests are also welcome. **(This is an informal affair and graduation dresses/suits are not required)**

Recognition Policy

RIBMS is on a cumulative grading system. This means that if your child does not receive honors in term one, they can push themselves and still earn honors by the end of the year. Students who receive honors in each term will be recognized by having their name on our honor wall in the foyer. They will receive a certificate of recognition at the end of the year.

All grade level year-end recognition program will be held at RIBMS.

Each year-end program will be developed by the grade level pod teachers and will be suitable for that grade level. All students/staff will attend the “Grade 8 Farewell Celebration”.

Academic Recognition:

- Grades 7 and 8 students must achieve an average of 79.5% on core subjects.

Honors	79.5% - 84.4%
Honors with Distinction	84.5% - 89.9%
Honors with Great Distinction	90% and above
- Students will receive the corresponding academic decal on their recognition certificate at the end of the year. The final mark in any core subject will be determined by averaging marks from the three reporting periods.

Sports Recognition:

- Any students in grades 5, 6, 7, or 8 who participated on a school-sponsored team, which includes volleyball, basketball, badminton, track and field and cross-country running will receive a decal for each sport on their recognition certificate.

Exploratory Recognition:

- An exploratory decal (or specific decal) will be awarded to students in grade 5, 6, 7 and 8 who demonstrate exceptional ability, skill, creativity or effort in their exploratory.
- Awarding recognition in an exploratory class will be left to the discretion of the exploratory teacher

Merit Recognition:

- This award is based on the attitudes and cooperation of students towards fellow students and staff members
- Students must work to the best of their ability in all aspects of school
- Students should display a positive attitude in all classes, in hallways, during breaks, at lunch and after school
- Students should show respect to all staff, substitutes and fellow students
- Students should put forth their best effort in school
- Students should be helpful to staff and other students
- Students should be welcoming and polite to parents and guests to RIBMS
- Students should participate enthusiastically in school activities
- Students should be trustworthy and truthful
- Grade 7 and 8 Merit awards must be a unanimous decision from the pod
- The Merit recognition will be recognized with a decal on the student's certificate

Improvement Recognition:

- All areas should be considered for this recognition, such as academics, attitude improvement, social growth and/or improved work habits.
- Each grade level pod will initiate a list considering those students they feel are most improved. This list will be circulated to pod members for their input and approval.
- Students can earn this recognition in EACH of their core classes.
- Those students recognized as most improved will receive a decal signifying their accomplishment for the year.

Fine Arts Recognition:

- Any students in grade 5, 6, 7 or 8 who participated in a school-sponsored, extracurricular fine arts program such as drama productions, choir, handbells, jazz band, stage band or other fine arts related activities, will be eligible to receive a fine arts (or specific) decal for their certificate
- Awarding this recognition decal will be left to the discretion of the teacher supervisor

Intramural Recognition:

- Any student in grade 5, 6, 7, or 8 who participated in the intramural program will receive an Intramural Recognition decal