



Rocky Christian School

**KINDERGARTEN
HANDBOOK**

Kindergarten

Kindergarten refers to a rich learning environment for early learners which makes use of services provided by community organizations and government agencies. Its primary goals are:

- (a) to help children and their families to develop a sense of dignity in new situations, and
- (b) to strengthen the role of the family as a first and fundamental influence on child development through involvement in their child's education.

There are four aspects to the program:

1. **Children**

The Rocky Christian Kindergarten program offers a play-centred approach to learning. We have structured our program to form an effective bridge between the home and the school. We trust that Rocky Christian Kindergarten will provide a warm, supportive environment where God is King of our lives.

2. **Parents**

Our kindergarten program strives to unite school and home. Many communication techniques, such as regular newsletters, communication folders, emails, phone calls and text messages are employed in order to keep everyone working toward the same learning goals.

3. **Staff**

Parents are their child's first and most important teacher. The Rocky Christian School kindergarten staff recognizes this and regards parents as a crucial resource in meeting the needs of children and their families. Parents are encouraged to serve as resource people for classroom activities. In addition, staff members are encouraged to attend kindergarten.-related professional development activities.

4. **Community**

At Rocky Christian School, we strive to connect students with the community through field trips, guest speakers, and volunteer opportunities (ex. Singing for seniors). Specialty community resource persons also assist with meeting developmental and identified needs of children and families as required.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Kindergarten children must reach five years of age by December 31 of the calendar year in which the school year begins.

COST

Kindergarten fees will be ten percent of our Fair Share Contribution payable to Rocky Christian School Society.

VOLUNTEERS

- Parents may be asked to help in classroom clean up, bring refreshments for special events, or supervise field trips from time to time. We have an extensive skating and swimming program that requires a lot of parental support. Your support makes these programs possible.
- Rocky Christian School has many volunteer opportunities to match with many giftings. Please don't hesitate to volunteer for a committee or area of interest. We strive to build a strong sense of community within our school. Working together with other parents is a great way to get connected. Belonging to a committee doesn't mean "doing all the work", just helping to get it organised. It is more pleasant to volunteer for activities of your choice than to be asked when needs arise.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The regular school day is from 8:45 am to 3:27 pm. Kindergarten students are dismissed at 3:20 pm so that they have ample time to walk to the buses. Kindergarten days are Tuesdays and Thursdays and one to two Wednesdays per month.

DRESS

With clothing and in terms of the items the children bring to class, the Biblical guideline of moderation should be followed, rather than conformity to society's standards or fads. Children should be dressed in clothing appropriate for play (ex. Physical education and art) and weather conditions (ex. Outdoor play and bus travel). ***Please label your child's coats, snowpants, mittens, etc.**

FIELD TRIPS

The number and types of field trips are usually decided on the recommendations of staff and parents. In most cases the trips should assist the children, staff and parents in learning more about the classroom themes. The field trips vary from year to year, depending on the needs of the students and their families. Our guideline for chaperoning field trips is one adult to five children. Students will walk or be transported by bus. On occasion we may require volunteer drivers; in that case we require all volunteers to have appropriate documentation on file in the office (Criminal Record Check, Child Intervention Check, Driver's Abstract, Certificate of Insurance, etc.)

RECREATION ACTIVITIES

For each swimming session planned, one adult is required for every six children. For skating sessions, plan to attend as many as possible, especially if your child has not yet learned to skate.

BUSSING

Out of town students are transported on the Wild Rose School Division school buses. Arrangements should be made with the transportation supervisor at the School Division Bus Shop (403-845-4255).

COLD WEATHER

Please listen to the local radio station 95.5 FM or check the Wild Rose School Division website (wrsd.ca) for bus cancellation announcements.

INSURANCE

The Rocky Christian School Society carries liability insurance for students registered with the school (Kindergarten through Grade 9). The school also carries accident and injury insurance for each student to cover injuries sustained during school time or at school functions.

POLICIES

The policies of the Rocky Christian School Kindergarten and other policies relating to operation of the school are available to all parents in the school office.

THREE KEYS TO AN EXCITING KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

As always, the strong foundation of our Kindergarten program will be a Christian Atmosphere, Christian Perspective, Christian Content, and the availability of excellent resources.

Our Kindergarten teacher is committed to the continued development of an excellent Christian kindergarten program.



The first key to the program is a focus on what we call Biblical Through-Lines. From kindergarten through grade 9, we want to make sure that every one of our students receive an education that prepares them for a Christian life characterized by the following list of hallmarks. The through lines present a portrait of what we hope the hearts and minds of our graduates will look like. And if someone at the rink asks you, "What do they do at that school?" You can tell them that they are being prepared for these things:

- God - Worshipping:** Students will be involved in regular and meaningful worship experiences.
- Earth - Keeping:** Students will respond to God's call to be stewards of all of creation.
- Justice - Seeking:** Students will act as agents of change by identifying and responding to injustices.
- Servant - Working:** Students will work actively to heal brokenness and bring joy.
- Image - Reflecting:** Students bear the image of God in their daily lives.
- Faith-Nurturing:** Students actively pursue an intimate relationship with their Heavenly Father.
- Idolatry - Discerning:** Students will be challenged to identify and understand the idols of our time.
- Beauty - Creating:** Students will praise God by creating beautiful things.
- Creation - Enjoying:** Students will celebrate God's beautiful creation.
- Community - Building:** Students will be active pursuers and builders of communal shalom.
- Order - Discovering:** Students will find harmony and order in God's creation.



The second key is an emphasis on parental involvement. We want parents to be actively involved in their child's learning journey through decision-making and helping out in a variety of ways.



A third key to our kindergarten program is field trips. Since parent chaperones are crucial to successful field trips, we look forward to discussing with parents the number of hands-on real-life experiences we can give our children. We believe field trips create memories and learning experiences that last and that create excitement about learning. We are committed to your child experiencing many rich encounters with the world around them!

Other Kindergarten Basics

Of course we cannot neglect the content of an excellent kindergarten. We will focus on:

Early Literacy

Early Numeracy

Citizenship and Identity

Environment and Community Awareness

Personal and Social Responsibility

Physical Skills and Well-being

Creative Expression

Priorities:

The Rocky Christian School Kindergarten program will seek to expand your child's ability to learn about (and from) the world, to organize information, and to solve problems. This increases his or her feelings of self-worth and confidence, his or her ability to work with others, and his or her interest in challenging tasks. Kindergarten should focus on social and emotional wellbeing and set a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning. Here are some priorities:

- ✓ **Active Children** are playing and working with materials or other children. Children have many opportunities to choose their own learning activities from throughout the rich learning environment. Children will be active participants in their learning.
- ✓ **Discovery** Throughout the day children have access to various centres that periodically change throughout the school year; sensory table (sand, water, wheat, etc.), dramatic play (construction site, kitchen, police station, restaurant, etc.) large-motor manipulatives (building blocks, etc.), fine-motor manipulatives (Lego, beading, etc.), library and painting station are just a few.
- ✓ **Community** Teachers work with individual children, small groups, and the whole group at different times during the day. They do not spend time only with the entire group.
- ✓ **Pride in workmanship** The classroom is decorated with children's original artwork, their own writing with invented spelling, and dictated stories.
- ✓ **Connection to Life** at home and in the community. Children learn numbers and the alphabet in the context of their everyday experiences. Exploring the natural world of plants and animals and cooking, for example, are all meaningful activities to children.
- ✓ **Exploration** Children work on projects and have long periods of time to play and explore. Filling out worksheets will not be their primary activity.
- ✓ **Nature** Children have an opportunity to play outside every day that weather permits. This play is never sacrificed for more instructional time.
- ✓ **Love of Books and Stories**. Teachers read books to children throughout the day, not just at group story time. Reading buddies also read with kindergartners on a regular basis. Stories are always a part of our daily learning.
- ✓ **Differentiated Curriculum** is adapted for those who are ahead as well as those who need additional help. Because children are unique and differ in experiences and background, they do not learn the same things at the same time in the same way.
- ✓ **Safe** and happy children and their parents look forward to school. Parents feel safe sending their child to kindergarten. Children are excited for each new day.