



# NEERLANDIA PUBLIC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

“Learning To Serve”

## General Handbook 2018/2019

4918 – 50 St  
Neerlandia, AB T0G 1R0  
780 674-5581 (phone)  
780 674-2927 (fax)  
<http://www.neerlandiaschool.ca>

## **N.P.C.S. STAFF MEMBERS:**

### **Administration:**

Mr. Brett Seatter, Principal  
Mrs. Kim Sybesma, Assoc. Principal

### **Teachers:**

Mrs. Sonja De Waal  
Mr. Jason Ferster  
Mr. Howard Gelderman  
Mrs. Juanita Henschel  
Mrs. Dallas Lee  
Mrs. Alvina Nanninga  
Mrs. Renee Rentz  
Mrs. Lorna Strydhorst  
Mrs. Lynn Vold (on leave)  
Mr. Brent Wierenga  
Mr. Trenton Wierenga  
Mrs. Lise Wruk

### **Support Staff:**

Mrs. Annemiek Elzinga, P.A.  
Mrs. Debbie Fisher, Admin. Assistant  
Mrs. Shirley Rauscher, P.A.  
Mrs. Marion Rayment, P.A.  
Mrs. Geraldine Wierenga, P.A.  
Mrs. Brenda Gelderman, Library Assistant  
Mrs. Dagmar Visser, Library Assistant

### **Custodial:**

Darcy & Laura Van Beek

## NPCS Calendar 2018/2019

August 29 & 30: Staff Days  
Sept. 3 – *Labor Day holiday*  
**Sept. 4 - First day of school  
& Opening Breakfast**  
**Sept. 4-** Kindergarten Groups (½ day session)  
Sept. 6 – **First full-day** of Kindergarten  
Sept. 14 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Sept. 21 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Sept. 26 - \* *early dismissal at 2:47 p.m.*  
Sept. 27 – Terry Fox Day, instructional day  
Sept. 28 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Oct. 3 & 4 – Evening Parent Meetings  
Oct. 5 – **No School: Day in lieu of Parent meetings**  
Oct. 8 – *Thanksgiving Day Holiday*  
Oct. 19 – *PD Day, no classes*  
*Oct. 24 - \* early dismissal at 2:47 p.m.*  
Oct. 26 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Nov. 2 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Nov. 9 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Nov. 12: *Mon. off, in lieu of Remembrance Day*  
Nov. 23: *Prof. Development Day, no classes*  
*Nov. 28- \* early dismissal at 2:47 p.m.*  
Nov. 30 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Dec. 7 - *St. Nick's Day, p.m.(Fri.)*  
*\*Kindergarten Day*  
Dec. 14 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
**Dec. 21, 2018– Jan. 6, 2019**  
**– Christmas Break**  
Jan. 7, 2019 – first day back in New Year  
Jan. 11 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Jan. 25 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Feb. 1 – *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Feb. 4 – Mon., Kindergarten Day  
Feb. 7 & 8 – Teachers' Convention Days  
Feb. 15 – *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Feb. 18 - *Family Day Holiday*  
*Feb. 27- \* early dismissal at 2:47 p.m.*

Mar. 1 – *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Mar. 8 - *Prof. Development Day, no classes*  
March Parent Meetings, Mar. 14 – evening  
& Mar. 15 – morning  
Mar. 15- *P/T/S morning, no classes all day*  
*Mar. 20- \* early dismissal at 2:47 p.m.*  
Mar. 22 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Mar. 22-31: Spring Break, no classes  
April 1- First day back after Spring Break  
April 5 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
April 12 - *Prof. Development Day, no classes*  
April 19 – **Good Friday**  
April 22 – **Easter Monday**  
**Apr. 22-26: Christian Education Week**  
*April 24 - \* early dismissal at 2:47 p.m.*  
May 3 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
May 7 - P.A.T. Gr. 6 ELA (A)  
May 8 - P.A.T. Gr. 9 ELA (A)  
May 10 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
May 17- *Alternate Day, no classes*  
May 20 - **Victoria Day Holiday**  
May 31 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
June 7 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
June 14 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
**-Grade 9 Graduation**  
June 17 - Gr. 6 ELA (B)  
June 18 - Gr. 6 Math (A & B)  
June 19 - Gr. 6 Science  
June 20 - Gr. 6 Soc. Studies  
June 20 - Jr. High Awards, 2:30 pm  
June 21 - *Alternate Day, no classes*  
Jr. High exams will be written between  
June 24 – 27 (Schedule TBA)  
June 24 – Gr. 9 ELA (B)  
June 25 – Gr. 9 Math (A&B)  
June 26 – Gr. 9 Science  
June 27 – Gr. 9 Soc. Studies  
**June 27 – Last Day for Students**  
June 28 - Last Day for Teacher

## **Welcome to Neerlandia Public Christian School**

### **Our Mission: “Learning to Serve.”**

Neerlandia Public Christian School will provide a Christ-centered education so that students are equipped to serve God joyfully in all areas of life.

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

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year at NPCS. Our school is experiencing some unique changes this year. We have several new teachers in our school this year, including myself as new principal. With change comes many new and exciting opportunities.

As principal, my goal is to lead in an authentic and genuine manner. It is my sincere hope and prayer that we as a staff can lead students to experience God in their academics in a meaningful and purposeful way. The Christian focus in our school should be one of sincere everyday living where our thoughts, actions, beliefs and learning are a true reflection of God’s character and His desires for us to live our lives in a way that honours and serves Him. As a school, Christ is our cornerstone, meaning that we will bring our focus and alignment back to Him while we work as a team to provide high quality educational opportunities.

We are all part of His kingdom and our opportunities to learn, work and serve together should be highly valued as we have a unique opportunity here at NPCS.

If you ever have questions about our school, please feel free to contact us at the school or come in to meet in person and have a visit. We want an open and honest environment where people feel comfortable and welcome at all times.

I look forward to working with you to provide the highest quality of Christian education for your children as we aim to shape the students into loving, caring servants of Christ.

Sincerely,

Brett Seatter  
Principal, Neerlandia Public Christian School

**School Council**  
**Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES)**

NPCS is a unique school in which the community and parents/guardians are keepers of the vision that drives us. The School Council's role is to provide community input and advise in order to support the education of the students. The Christian Education Society is our community promoting and supporting the Christian character of education at this school. The NCES ensures that the teachers have access to Christian curriculum resources and professional development, including the Prairie Centre for Christian Education's annual teacher's convention. The Society subsidises bus costs for students from Barrhead and outside the Neerlandia attendance area. They also provide a Pre-School program, taught by Mrs. Jill Olthuis this coming year. As a parent you have the opportunity and calling to be actively involved in the school through the School Council and NCES board.

Please consider prayerfully how you can support us as we seek to serve you in your children's education.

The contact names for the NCES and School Council will be published in our school directory.

The School Council and Education Society usually meet on the last Monday of every month. You are welcome to participate in those meetings.

## **NPCS Guidelines**

What does it mean to be a Child of God? NPCS teachers are blessed with a wonderful opportunity to explore this question with the students. We realize that we have a responsibility to teach in such a way that students will recognize in their lessons and in their lives the grace of God and His amazing love for them and for creation. We also hope to recognize in them a desire to learn about their heavenly Father and His wonderful creation. More importantly, we hope that they will join Jesus in His redemptive work by using what they learn in order to serve others and to take care of our Father's world. A Christian learning community such as we have at NPCS provides us with an environment in which we can grow spiritually, academically and socially together.

No, we're not perfect. We know that there will be many times when we fail in our task and calling, as students and we as teachers and parents. The definition of a Christian is not about perfection, but about forgiveness and redemption. Let us promise each other right at the start of the year that when things go wrong we will seek to make them right again in ways that reflect that we are all children of the same heavenly Father. Remember, Jesus Christ will be with us in the classroom, hallways and the playground of this school and through His Spirit He will guide us through the joyful and the stressful times.

This school is a special place. You are special people. We look forward to a blessed year together.

Please read the following basic information carefully. If you have questions, ask your teacher.

### **Absences**

If you are going to be absent, parents (guardians) should send a note or call the administrative assistant before 8:45 a.m. on the day of the absence. If there is no note or phone call and we don't know why you aren't here, we may call home to make sure that everything is all right.

### **Student Fees**

As of the 2017/2018 school year Alberta schools will no longer be charging students for instructional fees (includes textbook fees, etc.) There will be fees still charged for field trips, extra-curricular activities, sports team fees, uniforms, etc. A list of current school fees will be assessed at the beginning of each school year and posted on the website.

Online payments are now available for most items. Parents are still responsible for classroom supplies and these supply lists will be sent home each June. Parents can either purchase on their own or have School Start make up supply packages (online orders available) and delivered to home over summer break.

### **Student Behavior**

There really is only one rule for student behaviour at NPCS: all students are expected to remember that they are called to live as children of God who love their heavenly Father and their neighbours. We trust and expect that you will show this love by being respectful, courteous and honest to all teachers, staff, volunteers, parents and fellow students.

At this school we teach young people to live as caretakers of the creation, which includes taking care of the school's and each other's property.

We try to encourage students to have a healthy respect for themselves as people preparing to rule the creation with Christ. We trust, expect and demand, therefore, that students will take their schoolwork seriously. Learning, as training and preparation for living as a child of the Kingdom, is an awesome responsibility.

The expectations for behavior at NPCS are also based on Pembina Hills Public School Student Code of Conduct (AP50-09, found at [www.phpschools.ca](http://www.phpschools.ca)) which is also in alignment with Alberta legislation (The School Act).

## **Discipline**

Teachers at NPCS know that there will be occasions when student behaviour does not meet expectations. Their love for the students will then compel them to take appropriate measures to correct that behaviour. Teachers will be guided by the principle that all disciplinary action is intended to help and guide the student in the right path. The ultimate goal of disciplining is to assist students in becoming self-disciplined.

- 1) Remembering that the basis of discipline is disciple-ing, students will be treated with respect. The staff will always try to ensure that in the end students experience forgiveness and that where there has been hurt there will be healing.
- 2) We take all discipline situations seriously because we recognize the students' high calling. As teachers we work together with the home and we will inform parents and seek their support as necessary, especially in the case of repeated or consistent problems.
- 3) Discipline situations will have appropriate consequences: they will be dealt with in ways that are firm, fair and effective.
- 4) Teachers have the discretion to remove students temporarily to a "timeout area" in the classroom or another part of the school, including the office; to assign detentions; to give extra academic assignments; or to require service assignments in the school or community.
- 5) In some instances, students may be suspended or expelled in accordance with PHRD policies.

## **Bullying and Fighting**

**A special note about fighting and bullying: They are not allowed at this school!**

Bullying, whether over a long or short time, whether physical, verbal, or relational, will be dealt with seriously. Bullying may include, but is not limited to:

- physical violence, attacks and punitive behaviour
- threats and intimidation
- stealing or damage of possessions
- exclusion and isolation from peer group activities
- sarcasm, shouting, coercion
- "ganging up"
- derogatory comments or actions about a person's appearance and/or clothing
- negative peer pressure

God's children should not do these things to each other and should not have to suffer them from each other. We should be celebrating our differences and learning how to use our differences to make the world a better place. Please support us in this way by communicating when issues arise so they can be dealt with in a timely & appropriate manner.

## **Technology**

The proper use of computers at school will be explained early in the school year. This discussion will include rules about email, text messaging, and the safe use of the Internet & iPhones among other things. We are very strict about these things for the protection of all our students.

We live in a time of transition when it comes to technology and how readily we use it. Specific rules could vary from class to class or teacher to teacher – students need to abide by teacher's rules. We also include digital citizenship as a required component of our junior high courses.

Students are required to follow Pembina Hills Public School policies with respect to the use of technology. These policies & forms can be found on the PHPS website: AP80-01 Digital Citizenship &

AP80-05 Technology Acceptable Use agreement (completed by students/parents). Failure to follow these policies can lead to a suspension or removal of student access to division technology, including accessing of PHPS wireless connections by personal devices.

## Dress Code

Students should dress appropriately for school and school-sponsored functions, with an emphasis on neatness, cleanliness and modesty, as is becoming to a Christian. The co-operation of all parents, teachers and students will mean having a minimum of rules within the following guideline, particularly for our pre-teen and teenage students: While dress need not be formal, it should not be recreation or beachwear casual.



Keep it comfortable and appropriate to a Christian school setting. Students dressed inappropriately will be spoken to privately and either warned or sent home to change, depending on the situation. Hats, baseball caps and hoodie hoods are not to be worn inside, especially not in the classroom.

## Footwear

Students need to wear a pair of indoor shoes with non-marking soles whenever they are in the school. For safety and health reasons, bare or stocking feet are not allowed. Outdoor footwear goes on the shelves when you enter the building. When you leave, your indoor shoes stay inside. You need at least one set of each.

## Homework and Assignments

It is the expectation of this school and Alberta legislation that each student will work diligently to complete their work. Occasionally this might involve homework especially at higher grade levels.



## Visitors and Volunteers in the School

All visitors are asked to report to the school office to sign in and obtain an identification tag. We welcome and appreciate the help of volunteers in our school. Teachers will keep parents informed as to various volunteer opportunities within the classroom. If the volunteer will be working one-on-one with a child then we require a CRC (Criminal Record Check) and a CIC (Child Intervention Check) from Alberta Human Services. These record checks are valid for three years.

**School Emergencies** How we respond to emergencies at school? Our first priority is the safety, security and well-being of our students and staff. Guided by our division's Emergency Response Plan, we have developed a plan which outlines our school's response to various emergencies.

### What should parents do in an emergency?

1. Check the PHRD website. We will post information on the PHPS website [www.phpschools.ca](http://www.phpschools.ca) and on Twitter @PHRD Schools. Phone the PHPS Regional Services Office at 780-674-8500.
2. Do not come to the school as you could put yourself in danger and get in the way of emergency personnel. In several instances, our exterior doors will be locked and you will not be able to get in to the building.
3. Do not call or e-mail the school. We need to keep our phone lines open to communicate with emergency services.
4. Do not call, text or e-mail your child's cell phone. Depending on the threat, contacting your child's cell phone could endanger your child.

What happens during specific emergencies? As directed by local emergency personnel we will do the following:

1. If an incident or threat occurs inside or is directly related to our school, RCMP will instruct us to Lockdown our school which means we will lock all exterior doors. Staff and students will be directed to classrooms which will be locked. (e.g. dangerous intruder)

2. If an incident or threat occurs outside and is unrelated to our school, RCMP will instruct us to Hold and Secure which means we will lock all exterior doors. Students and staff may move freely in the school. (e.g. a bank near our school is robbed)
3. In some environmental or weather-related situations, authorities may direct us to Shelter in Place, which means we will keep students and staff in school until it is safe for them to leave. (e.g. chemical spill, blackouts, extreme weather conditions)
4. In some instances, we may have to evacuate the school. Students and staff will move to our primary evacuation site: Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church. Students will stay at the evacuation site until it is safe to return to school or they are released to a parent/guardian.

Note: If our primary evacuation site is compromised, we will move students to a secondary evacuation site. If this is the case, we will post this information on the PHPS website [www.phpschools.ca](http://www.phpschools.ca) and on Twitter @PHRD\_Schools.

Before an emergency happens:

1. Ensure the school has current Emergency Contact information for your child.
2. Talk to your child about the importance of following their teachers' instructions during an emergency.

**Fire Drills & Lock Downs**

Each year, the school will hold six fire drills. Students and staff will practice proper evacuation procedures. Each class has an area designated to meet on or near playground/parking lot. Students must wait to here the all clear signal before entering the school. Lock Downs are also practiced, usually twice a year.

**Inclement Weather:** Cancellation of school or of bus service due to poor weather will be broadcast on most radio stations and announced on both the PHPS and NPCS websites. NPCS is part of the Pembina Hills Public Schools. Unless otherwise indicated, if the buses are not running the school will still be open for those students who come anyway, but normal classroom activity will not happen.

When the temperature and/or wind chill drops below -25C or if it is raining heavily, students will remain indoors for recess. The school administration will use discretion in these circumstances. Please ensure that your child(ren) are dressed appropriately for the weather.



<p><b>BUZZER SCHEDULE for 2018/2019</b></p> <p>Morning Warning Bell: 8:25 am  Classes begin: 8:30 am  Morning Recess: 10:15-10:30 am  Lunch Break: 12:00 – 12:15 (Eat Lunch)  Outside Break: 12:15 – 12:45  Afternoon Recess: 2:15 – 2:30 pm  Dismissal Time: 3:45 pm  Busses leave at approx. 3:55 pm</p>
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## **NPCS is an Allergy Aware School**

We have students in our school whose health depends on the avoidance of certain items to which they are allergic. The most common allergenic are peanuts and all other types of nuts as well as perfumes. As a Christian school community we are going to do everything in our power to lovingly support these students and to avoid putting them in danger.

That means:

1. We will educate our students and parents on an on-going basis about the dangers that these allergies pose and about our responsibility to respond with loving carefulness.
2. We are going to create as safe an environment as possible for all students.
  - a. In some classrooms, for example, we may place an absolute ban on any nut products whether in lunches or snacks of any kind. Because that is the source of the most immediate danger, this rule will be very strictly enforced, even if it means confiscating a lunch and working to find replacement food.
  - b. In the rest of the school we will insist that students avoid bringing products with nuts, and if they occasionally forget we will insist that they wash their hands thoroughly before touching anything an allergic child might touch later.
  - c. We will also require students to keep the use of perfumes and perfumed deodorants to an absolute minimum. Spray cans of perfumes used in the halls will be used to decorate the office.
3. Junior High students who would like to continue to visit the Co-op during breaks may not misuse that privilege to purchase snacks that would be banned in the school.

Parents and students, please be allergy aware and pack lunches and snacks accordingly. Consider what you would do to show your love for God. Wouldn't sacrificing a peanut butter sandwich for one of the Children of the King pale to insignificance by comparison?