

Student & Parent Handbook

William Mason School Vision Statement

To be life long learners and active community members.

William Mason School Mission Statement

To build community and a positive sense of belonging through practicing R.O.A.R.

Greetings from the School Administrator

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to another school year at William Mason School! The startup of a new school year brings excitement and an eager anticipation of good things to come. We believe that each student can reach their fullest potential with the collaborative support of all stake holders. Each student can succeed academically and socially when we work together to support the learning environment at school and at home. Working collectively and collaboratively will foster a culture of learning and social development which is the hallmark of William Mason School.

Students at William Mason School will have a broad range of opportunities in order to pursue their academic goals, develop socially, or strive for excellence through athletics. We believe that students who are actively engaged will always do much better. We will encourage each student to find ways to develop strong character and healthy personalities by participating in various extracurricular activities.

Our Student Handbook was written with the premise of helping students and parents with guidelines to enhance student learning. This handbook is a living document and may be subject to change as the needs of the student population change. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call at 428-2157.

I would like to end with wishing everyone a happy and successful school year.

Best regards,

Darren LaRose Principal

WMS STAFF

Staff Members	Position
Mr. Todd Atkings	Teacher
Mrs. Lois Baerwald	Teacher
Mr. Trevor Davidson	Teacher
Mr. Kyle Dufault	Teacher
Mr. Erik Kendrick	Teacher
Mrs. Renée Kurbis	Teacher
Mr. Darren LaRose	Principal
Mrs. Cara Long	Teacher
Miss Amanda Moser	Teacher
Miss Katelin Stankowski	Teacher
Support Staff	Position
Mrs. Lori Burka	Administrative Assistant
Ms. Cindy White	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Gladys Whitrow	Educational Assistant

TELEPHONE NUMBERS
School Office 428-2157

School Website http://wms.nesd.ca/

SCHOOL HOURS

The main entrance to the school will be open at 7:00 am by the caretaker. All other doors to the school will be open by 8:30 am. Supervision of students begins at 8:40 am. The side doors to the school will be locked by 9:30 am in order to restrict the flow of traffic to the front door which remains open during the day. During extreme cold weather or rainy weather students will be directed to come into the school upon arrival.

ELEMENTARY B (Grades K-6)	BELL SCHEDULE				
8:55	Warning Bell				
	Oh Canada & Announcemer				
9:00	Period 1	(62 min)			
10:02	Period 2a	(30 min)			
10:32	Recess	(15 min)			
10:47	Period 2b	(31 min)			
11:18	Period 3	(62 min)			
12:20	Noon	(45 min)			
1:05	Period 4	(62 min)			
2:07	Recess	(15 min)			
2:22	Period 5	(63 min)			
3:25	Dismissal				

MIDDLE YEARS SCHEDULE (Grades 7-12)	& HIGH SCHO	OL BELL		
8:55	8:55 Warning Bell			
	Oh Canada & Announcemer			
9:00	Period 1	(62 min)		
10:02	Break	(7 min)		
10:09	Period 2	(62 min)		
11:11	Break	(7 min)		
11:18	Period 3	(62 min)		
12:20	Noon begins	(50 min)		
1:10	Period 4	(62 min)		
2:12	Break	(11 min)		
2:23	Period 5	(62 min)		
3:25	Dismissal			

Visitors to School

School buildings and school grounds are not public property, but are the exclusive property of the North East School Division. However, at William Mason School, the staff and students welcome all stakeholders to visit our facility. Parents, alumni and all other visitors to the school are asked to report to the Main Office upon entering the school and are encouraged to arrange to visit at times that are the least disruptive to the learning of the students. Visitors will be expected to observe respectful conduct while visiting our school.

Parental Involvement

Students benefit greatly when parents take an active role in their education. By showing interest in your child's education, you pass on an important message. You are saying that school is valuable, interesting and worth talking about at home. Students will usually enjoy learning and school life more; improve their skills and attitudes and do better in school; develop confidence in themselves, and be better prepared for the future. The following are some of the things you can do to get involved in your child's education:

- Get to know your child's teachers, the school staff, and subject matter and school policies. Read the school handbook with your child. Attend school activities (Open Houses, Hot Dog Sales, Concerts, Sports Events, S.C.C. meetings, etc.). We are always looking for volunteers in the school.
- Talk about school each day. Ask about subjects, friends, sports and activities, homework and projects. Encourage your child to share school experiences. Be positive; praise your child's efforts.
- 3) Make your home a learning place. Provide a time and place for homework and studying. Set clear rules about homework and study times. Be a guide: offer assistance and encouragement, but do not do their work for them.

Parent - School Communication Process

We believe that the parent – school communication process is extremely valuable. We would therefore ask that you utilize the following communication guidelines if you have a question, concern, or suggestion.

- Your Child If you have a concern regarding your child or if you need clarification please direct it to the classroom teacher through email or telephone. Most concerns can be dealt with at this level. A parent may be redirected to communicate with a teacher if they haven't already done so. Feel free to contact the principal if there are any unresolved concerns.
- 2. **The School** If you have a concern that is general in nature or if you need clarification about the school, please contact the school office.

School Discipline

The North East School Division Board of Education believes the school has an important role to play in facilitating all areas of a student's development. The Board expects, therefore, that when discipline situations arise, corrective educational processes aimed at encouraging social and personal growth will be taken. When disciplinary action must be taken, the principal or her designate will take reasonable measures which are of such nature as would be exercised by a kind, firm, and judicious parent. The function of discipline in the school can be described as follows:

- a) To protect the right of every individual to attend school without fear of harassment and disruption by other students.
- b) To help the child experiencing difficulties to recognize and develop acceptable behavioral patterns.

Discipline is always administered on a case-by-case basis. Considerations are made that take into account past history, the nature and seriousness of the offense, and the restitution the offender is willing to make.

Acts such as obscene language, verbal and physical abuse, harassment, damage to personal or school property, failure to complete assigned tasks, disrespect for authority and use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs will lead to escalations in the discipline procedure at William Mason School.

Parents will be informed of any serious offense that takes place. Students may have any number of consequences to face as a result of the nature and seriousness of the incident in question, as well as the student's past history. Restitution when possible is preferred, but consequences may also include any of the following:

- Verbal Reprimand
- Parent Notification
- Meeting with parents, student and teacher
- Loss of privileges such as school dances, extracurricular participation
- Student Behavior Contract
- In-school suspensions
- Out of school suspensions

It is assumed:

- 1. Before any contact is made with the parents, the teacher has done everything in their means to help the student modify their behavior.
- 2. The student has been given alternatives and encouraged to correct the misbehavior in positive ways.
- Situations occur in educational settings that do not allow "blanket" consequences. On a case-by-case basis, the staff and administration will use fairness and professionalism and obtain cooperation from home to deal with issues that arise.

To respect the privacy of all students, staff will only discuss with parents the disciplinary action that involves their child or children.

William Mason School Discipline Guide

LEVEL 1

Level 1 behaviours are handled by the attending staff member and are addressed through pre-teaching and pre-correcting. Considerable effort must be directed towards implementing expectations for learning and behaviour which are reinforced continually in our classrooms.

Infrequent Errors:

- Remind students of the expected behavior and why the expectation exists.
- Be specific communicate what was observed.
- Help students identify possible replacement behavior(s) to avoid future errors.

Chronic Errors:

- Chronic is defined as regular, repeated, and frequent behaviors over a short period of time.
- Seek input/guidance from colleagues, case managers, counselors, RTI team and/or administration.
- Contact the parent to discuss the inappropriate behavior(s) and strategies to resolve. A parental discussion is required prior to a referral to administration.
- Document incidents, responses, etc. in the student data-base.

(Depending on the circumstances and seriousness of the offense, the student may have a verbal warning, a time out, a loss of privilege, a community service assignment, some form of restitution, an action plan, a restricted recess) Here are some examples:

□ Asse	mbly Behavior		Littering
│ □ Bus l	Behavior		Non- Compliance
☐ Disre	spect toward other students/adults		Rough play/Pushing
	se of Electronic Devices	l ō	Playground behavior
			- 12/3:04114 201141101

0000	Gym Behavior Hallway Behavior Incomplete Homework/assignments Inappropriate Internet sites Inappropriate Print material	0	Inappropriate language /swearing Teasing/Derogatory remarks/gossip/put- downs Unprepared for Class Wandering Halls during class time Late for school
		LE	/EL 2
progress administi		member. vith parei	Chronic behaviours should result in a CLVR ats and seek out support from RTI team and
First Occur	rence: Discussion with student about the importance of the ex	nected bak	avior
•	Natural consequence and/or restitution by the student		avioi.
•	Document incidents, responses, etc. in the student data	a-base.	
	Informal notification to Administration. Parental conta		
econd Co			
	Discussion with student about the importance of the ex		avior.
	Natural consequence and/or restitution by the student.		
	Informal notification to Administration. Parental contains		
	Document incidents, responses, etc. in the student data	-base.	
hird Occu			
Referral to the office and principal			
_	Document incidents, responses, etc. in the student data	ı-base.	
•			
(Depend privilege, a	ding on the circumstances and seriousness of the offens community service assignment, some form of restitution suspension) Here a	n, check in	check out action plan, a restricted recess, an in school
(Depend rivilege, a	ding on the circumstances and seriousness of the offens community service assignment, some form of restitution suspension) Here a Cheating or plagiarism	n, check in re some ex	check out action plan, a restricted recess, an in school amples: Lying
(Depend rivilege, a	ding on the circumstances and seriousness of the offens community service assignment, some form of restitution suspension) Here a Cheating or plagiarism Inappropriate representation of school	n, check in re some ex	check out action plan, a restricted recess, an in school amples: Lying Racial / Derogatory Slurs
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(Depend rivilege, a	ding on the circumstances and seriousness of the offens community service assignment, some form of restitution suspension) Here a Cheating or plagiarism Inappropriate representation of school (field trips, sports, etc.) Opposition to authority Refusal to follow the rules of the school Use of matches or lighters	n, check in re some ex	check out action plan, a restricted recess, an in school amples: Lying Racial / Derogatory Slurs Bullying others / Social alienation Fighting Rude/Crude behaviors toward others Vandalism of School Equipment
(Depend rivilege, a	ding on the circumstances and seriousness of the offens community service assignment, some form of restitution suspension) Here a Cheating or plagiarism Inappropriate representation of school (field trips, sports, etc.) Opposition to authority Refusal to follow the rules of the school	n, check in re some ex	check out action plan, a restricted recess, an in school amples: Lying Racial / Derogatory Slurs Bullying others / Social alienation Fighting Rude/Crude behaviors toward others

LEVEL 3

Level 3 behaviours will result in an immediate referral to the school administration and RTI. Communication will occur with the parents and documentation from CLVR will be used to intervene. Counselling and other supports will be sought out.

Any Occurrence:

• Immediate referral to the office and principal

(Depending on the circumstances and seriousness of the offense, the student may have a loss of privilege, a community service assignment, some form of restitution, check in check out action plan, a restricted recess an in school suspension, an at-home suspension) Here are some examples:

	Repeated Bullying/Intimidation	Theft
	Severe/Extreme Defiance	Vandalism
	Escalated Fighting	Weapons
	Escalated Physical Aggression	Illegal substances
	Safety Concern (Dangerous)	Sexual Behavior/harassment
	Intimidation and threats towards others	Continuous disregard for school rules
ĺ	Defiance towards teacher or staff member	Illegal substances
ı	Swearing that is directed towards a teacher or	Gross misconduct as
ı	staff member	Inappropriate clothing

DRESS CODE

A reasonable standard of dress is expected of all students of William Mason School. A clean, safe, and neat appearance is the general theme of the code. Fashions reflecting antisocial values, vulgar or suggestive thoughts, or promoting alcohol or drugs are not to be worn. Revealing clothing is also not to be worn. Every attempt should be made to keep under garments from being exposed. Clothing worn by students should promote a positive, safe and healthy atmosphere within the school. Moreover, we ask that students take their hats off during class.

All concerns related to student apparel will be reported to the office. Students who are not dressed appropriately will be asked to comply with the dress code and to fix the situation. A phone call home may be required in order to get more appropriate clothing.

SMART DEVICE, TABLET AND LAPTOP USE

William Mason School believes that students need to access all tools available to support their learning. As a result, we are allowing students to use any smart device, tablet, or laptop (devices) in their classes for educational purposes. Students are allowed to have devices out during breaks and noon hour with the expectation that the device does not hinder student's ability to arrive in class on time.

Guiding Principles:

- 1) Students are only to use their device when the teacher gives them permission to utilize it for educational purposes. Device use is a privilege not a right.
- 2) Students are responsible for the security of their devices at all times. The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen devices, but the school will investigate any such matters.
- 3) Students without a device will have access to laptops provided by the school when possible.
- 4) Taking pictures or videos without permission is also strictly prohibited.

Guidelines for appropriate use include:

- 1) Using your device in class with permission, you need to be willing to show your screen to your teacher at any time, and you are responsible for it at all times.
- 2) If you would like to use your device for something that was not outlined by the teacher then you need to ask permission first.
- 3) No Texting or instant messaging in class unless asked to do so by your teacher.
- 4) Social Networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace will only be used for educational reasons and as directed by your teacher.
- 5) Accessing school appropriate websites.
- 6) Recording videos, images, or voice recordings with permission.
- 7) Not participating in Cyber bullying.
- 8) Ensuring you don't "Hack" or misuse someone else's device.

Inappropriate Use Policy:

Action will be taken if cell phones are binging used in a way that violates the guidelines. A student may be asked by the teacher to put them away. If the problem becomes chronic then a referral will be made to the office. The principal will decide what the next action will be.

SCHOOL VISITORS

We welcome visitors, and ask for understanding that during school hours staff are very busy attending to needs of students. Therefore, we require all parents, community members, and maintenance and delivery personnel to report to the office where we can assist with your business at the school.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers (parents or community members) are appreciated. Please phone the school for more information – our School Community Council has developed a volunteer protocol, and we have a community member coordinating volunteer activities at the school. Some examples may include duties such as:

- 1) Reading or listening to reading
- 2) Helping with art, physical education, music, drama, etc.
- 3) Helping in the library, with copying, etc.
- 4) Being a guest lecturer, show slides or videos of trips, etc.
- 5) Preparing meals such as hot dogs, etc.

Volunteers will be required to respect certain expectations of our school in the course of their duties.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

**The guidelines presented will be followed to enable students to be responsible for their attendance. The staff and administrators of William Mason School are aware that extenuating circumstances will arise; these will be handled on an individual basis.

- 1. Regular and punctual attendance is a legal requirement for all students under the age of 16.
- 2. Both tardiness and absenteeism can be a disturbance to the rest of the class.
- 3. Students with poor attendance often have problems completing their course/grade successfully.
 - Parents should telephone the school at 306-428-2157 prior to the start of day to report confirmed absences. Parents should also inform the school if their child is expected to be absent for more than one day.
 - If, for some reason, a student must leave during the school day, they must report to the office and be signed out by Mrs. Burka.

GRADE 10-12 ATTENDANCE

- 1. Students are to be accountable and responsible for their own actions.
- 2. Lapses in student attendance will be documented.
- 3. Lates will also be documented. Students must have materials and be ready to begin the class when the bell rings.
- 4. The RTI team (Response to Instruction) will be involved if a serious problem develops.

FIVE (5) Unexcused ABSENCES IN ANY COURSE WILL RESULT IN A LETTER BEING SENT HOME TO PARENTS TO INFORM THEM OF THE ATTENDANCE SITUATION.

TEN (10) Unexcused ABSENCES IN ANY COURSE WILL RESULT IN THE RTI TEAM'S INVOLVEMENT. THE RTI TEAM WILL INVOLVE THE STUDENTS AND PARENTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS. AN ATTENDANCE PLAN WILL BE DEVELOPED.

FIFTEEN (15) Unexcused ABSENCES IN ANY COURSE, MAY RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM THAT COURSE. THE RTI TEAM WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH ANY STUDENTS IN THIS SITUATION ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

(Any school-sponsored events (field trips, sporting events, etc.) do not count as absences towards the total number, provided the student participates in the activity.)

CLEAN SHOE POLICY

Students are encouraged to have an extra set of shoes reserved exclusively for indoor use. Please be sure that indoor shoes have non-marking soles.

On wet or snowy days mud and snow tracked onto the school is often a problem. Therefore, we will require all students without clean/dry shoes to remove outdoor shoes at the door.

If students do not have a clean/dry pair of shoes, they will be required to go sock feet. If outdoor shoes leave a mess, the student must clean up after themselves.

GYM SHOES

Students must have an extra pair of clean gym shoes that are used exclusively inside. Again, please be sure that indoor shoes have non-marking soles. Gym shoes should be locked in lockers and only used during gym periods.

BULLYING

Bullying entails an imbalance in strength between the bullies and the victim. This is what experts call an asymmetric power relationship. It includes an assortment of negative acts carried out repeatedly over a period of time generally away from the presence of adults, or in the presence of adults who fail to intercede.

A broad definition of bullying is when a student is repeatedly exposed to negative actions on the part of one or more other students. These negative actions can take the form of physical contact, verbal abuse, or making faces and rude gestures. Spreading rumors and excluding the victim from a group are also common forms.

For these reasons we consider bullying to be a very serious matter and will investigate any instances of bullying reported to us. Any students involved in such behavior will face appropriate disciplinary action.

FIRE DRILLS

There are 3-5 drills held each year to familiarize students and teachers with procedures. One monitor is chosen from each room to report absentees to the checkpoint, during a drill.

We also prepare students for other types of drills which occur:

- Lock-down drills, where students remain in their locked classrooms
- Evacuation drills, in which the entire school moves to the skating rink.
- Bus evacuation drills, in which students practice exiting the bus through the rear emergency doors. (This drill also includes town students, to prepare them in case of emergencies while on bus for extracurricular or field trips.)

LEAVING SCHOOL PROPERTY

Leaving school property during class time and breaks is prohibited. Any student who has to leave because of appointments, parent pickup, etc. must sign out at the office before leaving.

Leaving the school at noon hour is only allowed when:

- a) The student is in Gr. 9-12 and the parents have signed a Request for Noon-Hour Privileges sheet (effective for the current school year only).
- b) A note from the parent of bused Gr. K-8 students must be provided to the homeroom teacher. The note must be dated, signed with the purpose for leaving, and handed in prior to leaving the school. The note cannot be a blanket note that covers multiple dates.
- c) Students with spares are expected to remain at the school, working quietly on other class work. Having a spare does not grant a student permission to leave the school grounds.

Students leaving the school for any reason other than going home for lunch must sign out at the office, and sign in at the office upon their return to the school. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

LIBRARY (LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER)

Open Monday - Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00

EXPECTATIONS

- 1. Sign out all materials and books before taking them out of the L.R.C.
- 2. No food or drinks in the LRC.
- 3. Do NOT move the tables without permission from the library clerk.
- 4. Replace chairs under table and tidy your study place when finished.
- 5. Students are to work quietly.
- Loaning period for LRC materials is two weeks. Students are urged to check the due
 date of their material and return them by this date. Overdue lists will be posted
 outside the LRC frequently. The cost of lost or damaged materials will be billed to
 the student's family.
- 7. Reference books are not to be removed from the LRC. No CDs or Computer disks are to be removed from the LRC.
- 8. The printer is not be used without consent from teacher.

NEWSLETTER

A monthly newsletter will be sent out from the school at the start of every month. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform the parents and community of various school activities.

SCHOOL BUS REGULATIONS

- 1. Pupils must obey the driver promptly and respectfully. Pupils must obey orders of the monitor or patrol on the bus.
- 2. The pupil must be on time.
- 3. Unnecessary conversation with the driver is prohibited.
- 4. A pupil not returning home by bus must ensure the driver is notified.
- 5. Parents are responsible for their children between home and the bus stop.
- 6. All students must be <u>properly dressed for weather</u> conditions and in complete readiness to board the school bus when it arrives at each pick-up point.

- 7. When boarding the bus students shall, immediately and in an orderly manner, proceed to their seats as assigned by the bus driver. Student shall remain in their seats at all times unless told to move by the driver.
- 8. Students must not bother each other. There shall be no unruly behavior of any sort.
- 9. There shall be no tampering with doors and windows or any other part of the bus. No object may be thrown out of the bus; neither is it permitted to have a limb or any part of the body extending out of the bus.
- 10. No student may leave the bus on the way to and from school except when permitted by the bus driver, or if written permission by the parent is handed to the bus driver.
- 11. Students must be prepared to board the bus immediately after school and remain there until delivered at the bus stop, except when excused by the bus driver or by written permission of the parent.
- 12. Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, firearms and the use of obscene language on the bus are prohibited.
- 13. Bus passengers are expected at all times to be courteous and considerate to each other and to the bus driver.
- 14. The bus driver is directed to report pupils breaking these rules to the Principal.

*** For violation of any of these rules, a pupil may be suspended off the bus for up to 3 days per incident. The suspension will be issued by the principal subsequent to consultation with the driver. If the principal and driver recommend a suspension exceeding 3 days, the Director of Education, or designate will become involved and make a decision in accordance to North East Policy 409***

STUDENT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

School Sports Jr = Gr. 6-9;	Sr = Gr. 9-12;	B = Boys;	G = Girls;	M=Mixed
* Volleyball * Badminton * Curling * Cross Country Running * Track & Field * Wrestling * Basketball	JrSr B/G JrSr B/G JrSr B/G/M JrSr B/G JrSr B/G JrSr B/G JrSr B/G	\$2 mi and c yearly		nsurance and thorization form ill <u>NOT</u> drive to

Other Clubs: Yearbook, SRC, Drama, Singing Club, Library Club

WILLIAM MASON SCHOOL ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The coaches of William Mason School volunteer their time to provide opportunities for students to grow both mentally and physically, through their participation in competitive junior high and high school athletics.

Our athletic philosophy (which will be given to athletes at the opening organizational meeting for each sport) states:

At the junior level playing time will be split as evenly as possible so that all athletes have adequate time to grow and develop. Junior sports are entirely developmental.

At the senior level all members of a team will receive playing time but it may not be split evenly. Senior sports are intended to balance developmental and competitive purposes.

WMS CODE OF ETHICS (FOR COACHES & ATHLETES)

William Mason Coaches are expected to:

- remember that the athletic area is a classroom with moral and education obligations required at all times.
- insist upon a high degree of scholarship from all participants.
- maintain a genuine and current knowledge of that which he/she proposes to teach.
- maintain fair, unprejudiced relationships with all team members.
- pay careful attention to the physical condition of the athletes.
- inspire a love of the game and a desire to compete fairly.
- take a strong stand against profanity, unfair play and unsportsmanlike behavior of their athletes.
- maintain self-control at all times and to accept the decisions of all officials.
- teach athletes to win by use of legitimate means only.
- believe in the honesty and integrity of opponents and officials.
- teach that to win is always desirable, but to win at all costs defeats the purpose of the game.

W.M.S. athletes are expected to:

- conduct themselves at all times with honor and dignity, cooperating fully with all coaches and staff members.
- treat visiting teams, spectators, and officials as honored guests.
- faithfully complete schoolwork as practical evidence of their loyalty to school and team.
- show that it is a privilege to represent their schools.
- remember that there is no place in school athletics before, during, or after competition for the use of drugs, tobacco or alcohol.
- maintain a suitable level of fitness.
- be fair at all times no matter what the cost.
- believe in the honesty and integrity of opponents and officials, accepting gracefully and without question the decision of the officials.
- learn and abide by the rules of the game.
- accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion, being neither boastful nor bitter, recognizing and applauding honestly and whole-heartedly the efforts of their teammates and opponents.
- play hard to the limits of their abilities regardless of discouragement. True athletes do not give up, nor do they cheat, bet or show off.

William Mason School is a place where academics is the top priority and participation in extra-curricular activities is encouraged. Students are expected to comply with the Duties of Students as prescribed in the Education Act and to follow all school rules as outlined in the W.M.S. student handbook. Students who do not meet these minimum requirements may lose the privilege of participating in extra-curricular activities.