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Partnership

At Prince of Peace Lutheran School, we value parents as partners in the education of our students. Why? Simply, parents are the first and most important teachers children will ever have.

Your children are precious to you. That's why you spend time with them, reading, teaching, encouraging, and passing on the values important to your family.

As a school, we don't want to take away your job as teacher. Instead, we work with you. We too see children as precious and take the time to get to know each one. They are truly masterpieces – valued treasures created by God, our Master! We look for our students' strengths and needs, and do everything we can to help them grow and learn.

Educating is a partnership, and is most effective when the home and the school work together and share the same values.

In a Christian school like ours, we also value the partnership we have with the church – the community of faith. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church values children and their families, and it values its school ministry. This partnership is demonstrated by the many volunteers who give their time and resources to support the school, as well as the commitment of the congregation in an excellent facility for the ongoing school ministry. The church also sees all school families as part of its community and is ready and willing to provide them support and resources. We do not, however, seek to pull people who are active in other Christian congregations away from their church homes.

The Role of Parents

We expect our parents to be actively involved in the education of their children. This includes:

1. Maintaining healthy routines at home so that children can do their best at school...
 - a. Establishing early, regular bedtimes (beginning before the start of school in September)
 - b. Encouraging active play, and limiting the amount of time in front of the television, computer, or video games.
 - c. Choosing carefully the number of extracurricular activities and lessons in which children participate.

- d. Ensuring the children eat a balanced, healthy breakfast and providing them with appropriate snacks and lunch.
- e. Setting a regular homework routine, including appropriate times and space for the work to be done.
- f. Setting routines in your home that encourage good behaviour and providing structure to help your children build self-control.
- g. Ensuring students are appropriately dressed for the weather.
- h. Ensuring the children arrive at school in time to make a relaxed transition to the classroom before the start of the school day at 8:30 a.m.

2. Supporting and being involved in the life of the school...

- a. Actively participating in the School Council and school fundraising activities.
- b. Reading the weekly newsletters and other school communications.
- c. Communicating regularly with the teachers.
- d. Supporting the work of the teachers and administration.
- e. Addressing any concerns appropriately and according to the guidelines established in the school policies.
- f. Promoting positive, purposeful, and relaxed conversation about school with your children.
- g. Being an ambassador of the school to your friends, family and neighbours.

The Role of the School

The school, through qualified and caring teachers and administration, provides a safe and warm environment for learning to take place. It ensures that the necessary materials for learning are available, and, most importantly, through the hard work of teachers, it helps all children meet their potential and become enthusiastic and confident about learning.

Each teacher will establish an intentional plan to communicate regularly with parents, and will share that plan during the home visit which takes place before school starts in fall.



The Role of the Church

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church began this school in 1995 and, since then, has viewed the school as a central component of its ministry and outreach to the community. Presently, the congregation provides input to and support for the school ministry through its School Commission.

In addition to supporting the school, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church provides school parents different opportunities to grow in their faith. Also, the staff of the congregation is available to school families, ready to provide Bible-based, spiritual counseling and support when special needs arise.

We encourage all school families to be involved in a church, and if they don't have a church home themselves, we invite them to consider joining the Prince of Peace Lutheran community of faith.

As partners with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, the school children may participate during Sunday morning worship services, and they also present an annual Advent (Christmas) program on an evening before Christmas. All students are expected to attend these special events.

Rocky View Schools

In the fall of 2006, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church entered into an agreement with Rocky View Schools, making Prince of Peace Lutheran School an alternative public school, the first in the division. While the mission and identity of the school does not change under this agreement, the governance and supervision of the school and staff now falls under the authority of the Rocky View School Board of Trustees and the Office of the Superintendent.

The School Council

The partnership between parents and the school is demonstrated in the School Council of which all parents and teachers are a part. This group, led by elected parents/grandparents and supported by school administration, meets several times a year to improve communication, build a sense of community, and plan events which provide support for the school's operations and special projects. All parents are expected to be an active part of the School Council, offering their time as they are able. Together, we can make our school the best it can be.

Community

Our Community's History

Every community has a history, and our school community is no different. Lutheran schools have operated in Canada for over 100 years, and Prince of Peace Lutheran School experiences the benefits of this Christian School heritage.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, which opened as a North East Calgary congregation in 1962, relocated to the present site in 1995, the same year Prince of Peace Lutheran School began operation. The school started with grades K-9 and soon added preschool and the high school program. In the fall of 2006, the school became an alternative program of Rocky View Schools and the high school program was discontinued because of low enrollment.

Since 1995, Prince of Peace has also developed a community of homes known as the Prince of Peace Village for people 55 years old and older. Prince of Peace Manor was also built to provide assisted living for seniors. In the spring of 2010, Prince of Peace opened the newest facility on the site called the Prince of Peace Harbour to care for people suffering with dementia. Together, the church, school, village, manor and harbour form the Prince of Peace Christian Community.

Building Community

A community is a group of people who live, work, and grow together. This is why the word community is perfect to describe our school.

We work hard to provide a caring, safe community for all of our students. This happens naturally as they interact together in chapel services, on field trips and on the playground.

We include in our program deliberate times when children of different grades interact and help each other, for example, our reading buddy program.

We also deliberately teach the skills which equip all students to be positive leaders in our school community. These skills include conflict reconciliation and bullying prevention.

It is in community that our students learn to live out their faith and discover how to contribute in a meaningful way.

Our Larger Community - Affiliations

Prince of Peace Lutheran School is proud to be a part of a larger community of over 30 other Lutheran schools across Canada, and 2000 Lutheran schools in the United States. Our affiliation with Lutheran Church-Canada defines our identity and practice, and offers our teachers opportunities for specialized training which prepares them for service in our school. In 2010, our school became the first school in Canada to achieve accreditation with the National Lutheran School Accreditation process. More information on this is on our website!

We are a member of the Lutheran Teachers' Association, which provides us with resources, professional development conferences, and the opportunity to build relationships with other teachers and administrators across the country.

Our school also holds associate membership with the Association of Independent Schools and Colleges of Alberta which promotes parental choice in education. We support both the public school system of which we are apart and the right of all parents to choose the best school for their children, whether public or independent.

Our school is also proud to be one of the 42 schools that make up Rocky View Schools, the fifth largest school division in Alberta. The division is shaped like a horseshoe around the west, north and east boundaries of Calgary, and serves over 18,000 students with over 2000 staff.



Academic Foundations

Our goal is that all of our students receive a solid education, equipping them for success now and in the future. For this reason, we focus on providing a well-balanced, holistic learning program which fosters enthusiasm and confidence in our students. We work at instilling a love of learning that will remain for a life time.

Our school meets the educational outcomes set by Alberta Education in the Programs of Study and uses ministry approved educational resources to guide the learning process.

As a Christian school, these academic goals are met in the context of our Christian faith. All subjects are taught through the lens of our Christian worldview. One of our school initiatives, Theothreads, is the foundation of this faith integration process.

Preparing our students for success involves not only teaching the knowledge and skills required, but also encouraging godly values and attitudes which lead not only to intelligence and competence, but to wisdom and leadership.

Knowledge Leading to Understanding

Every subject area has a core set of facts and information, and it is essential that our students learn this information, understand its meaning, and commit it to memory. This knowledge, whether it be the alphabet, the times table, or the scientific method, becomes the foundation for academic growth. We have not met our goals as a school, however, unless the students move beyond simple knowledge to true understanding, which is the ability to see the important concepts (big ideas) of the curriculum and apply those concepts in new situations. Teachers work hard to find ways to present information and help the students experience it, so that learning does not become merely the memorization of meaningless facts. We help our students make sense of the information in a meaningful way, guiding them to see how it fits together in the big picture. This is the focus of one of our core school initiatives, Understanding by Design.

Skills and Habits

Success comes not only from possessing knowledge, but also from having the skills to use that knowledge in meaningful and appropriate ways. Learning involves doing. In every subject area, students must hone their skills so they are able to apply what they know in practical and new situations. They must develop the ability to logically evaluate and solve problems, drawing on the knowledge and skills they have developed.

Not only do students learn academic skills, but they must also develop interpersonal skills, so that they can interact positively with a variety of people. They must discover what it means to work as a team and live in a community. These essential skills are encouraged at Prince of Peace. This is all about leadership, and we deliberately teach 7 habits of leadership in our Leader in Me program, and integral part of our school.

Values

It is essential for us to recognize that we all value certain things and ideas more than others. As our students grow in their understanding of the world and ability to interact in it, they must also develop a set of values which guides their actions. As a school we are transparent with the values we teach.

- **Respect:** Students are taught respect for God and His word, and for people.
- **Responsibility:** Students are taught to accept and take personal responsibility for their actions and age-appropriate tasks.
- **Caring:** Students are taught to help other people.
- **Empathy:** Students learn to see the world from other people's perspectives and understand their feelings and views.
- **Social Responsibility:** Students are taught to show an interest in making the community and world a better place.
- **Integrity:** Students are taught to act on their convictions and stand up for their beliefs, even when it is difficult.
- **Honesty:** Students are taught to value their word and the truth, and act accordingly.
- **Godly Lifestyle:** Students are taught to value good health habits and godly sexual attitudes.

Attitudes

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."
(Galatians 5:22)*

An attitude is a pattern of thinking and behaving. Our attitude affects how we approach life in general. While we teach values, we nurture godly attitudes. Our prayer is that students will develop the following approaches to life:

- **Joyfulness:** That they will see joy in all that life brings, even the challenges, recognizing God's hand guiding them.
- **Selflessness:** That they consider other people's needs and interests as important and go out of their way to help those around them.
- **Perseverance:** That they will work hard at what they do, even when it is difficult, and will do their best to achieve their goals and finish the jobs they start.

Leadership

We know that leadership is not limited to a few. Instead, all of us can be leaders; therefore, we at Prince of Peace have adopted a leadership program called the Leader in Me, which teaches seven leadership principles or habits which align very nicely with our Christian foundations. We see that leadership is having the WISDOM to know what is true and right, the COURAGE to stand on the truth and do what is right even when it is difficult or unpopular, and the use of our gifts in SERVICE of others. We work hard to help our students learn the habits of leadership and to exercise them in the life of the school.

Testing

We take part in all Provincial Achievement Tests at grades 3, 6 and 9. We understand that standardized testing has its limits in measuring the progress of children's learning. These tests help us assess our school program as we constantly evaluate how we can better serve our students and their families.

Biblical Foundations

Nurturing Faith

What sets our school apart from others is that we desire all of our students to grow in their relationship with Jesus and to integrate their faith into their daily lives. While reading, writing, math, history, and science all play a crucial role in a person's success in this world, only a faith relationship with Jesus makes an eternal difference.

Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10) We want our students to experience the full life they can have in Jesus.

For those students and families who do not come from a Christian background, we welcome them fully, and encourage them to explore God's Word and consider what it has to offer them. All students fully partake in the Christian program of the school, regardless of their faith background.

Role of the Home

The first and most important environment influencing the faith development of children is the home.

A national study conducted by Search Institute in 1995 examined several ways families express faith in the home – each of which is extremely important for nurturing a dynamic faith. Four family practices are particularly important in helping young people grow in faith (both in childhood and adolescence):

- Talking about faith with your mother.
- Talking about faith with your father.
- Having family devotions or prayer.
- Doing family projects to help other people.

Because family is so important in the development of faith (including the extended family), we as a school want to support and equip parents as they work to help their children grow in faith.

We also encourage all of our families to become active in a local Christian congregation. Active participation in worship, Bible study and fellowship opportunities are immensely valuable in faith development. If you do not have a church home already, we at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church would welcome you to consider joining our faith community.

Role of the School

We know that building a solid faith foundation involves learning God's word, and living the faith. For that reason, we design a program which does both.

Christian Studies classes are taught at every level in our school, with a focus on teaching the stories of God's work in the lives of His people as read in the Bible. Our program involves Bible reading, activities, and memory work.

We also see worship as an important part of living out our faith. There is devotional time set aside every day in the classrooms, and the whole school community gathers weekly for short chapel services. Music, learning, and prayer are all important components in this time, and on special occasions the children themselves have opportunities to present and lead in the chapel worship time. An offering is collected during chapels every week, and is used to support special mission projects.

Service to the community and the world also give our students opportunities to exercise their faith and demonstrate leadership. Some examples of mission and service projects are collecting items for Operation Christmas Child, which sends care packages to third world children; participating in the Terry Fox Run, singing in seniors' residences; cleaning up our neighborhood; and joining in Jump-Rope-for-Heart.

Finally, we live out our faith in community. As children interact with each other and with their teachers, they have opportunities to model the Christian life. When hurtful things happen, they are able to work through conflict in ways which restore relationships and offer forgiveness. These skills are modeled and taught by the teachers. Our school initiative that deals most directly with this aspect of biblical reconciliation is called Peacemakers.

In daily living, through God's Word, the Holy Spirit works in our heart to plant and grow strong faith.

What Lutherans Believe

Prince of Peace Lutheran School welcomes students from all faith backgrounds. In order to help those who are not familiar with what we as Lutheran Christians believe, we have provided a brief summary of Lutheran beliefs in the appendix to this handbook, Schedule A. Please feel welcome to ask any questions you might have.

General Information

Prince of Peace Lutheran School follows the policies of Rocky View Schools, with the exception of those policies that prevent our school from living out its Christian identity and which have been formally exempted by the Superintendent of Schools. Rocky View policies are available online at www.rockyview.ab.ca (under "General Information" on the side bar, and then "Policy Manual").

Admissions

All families interested in the Christian education we offer are welcome to attend our school, regardless of their faith background. Our school is here to serve the entire community.

Admission to kindergarten is granted to students who turn five on or before the last day of February of that school year.

Admission to grade 1 is granted to students who turn six on or before the last day of February of that school year.

Although our school has a well developed Learning Assistance program, we are not equipped and do not have the funding to meet the needs of all students with special needs; therefore, acceptance of such students is contingent on the prior approval of the Associate Superintendent of Learning.

Admission Procedure

Students are admitted on a first-come-first-served basis. Registration opens as follows (for specific dates, contact the office):

First Opportunity:	Returning students (first weeks in January)
Second Opportunity:	Returning students and their siblings (later in January)
Third Opportunity:	Residents of Rocky View Municipality and members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (February)
First Week in March:	Open registration (March)

If classes are full, student names will be placed on a waiting list. Common practice is to fill openings from the waiting lists according to when the student applied, but the administration reserves the right to make exceptions to this practice in special circumstances.

Probationary Status

All new students admitted to the school are accepted on a probationary status until they have demonstrated right attitudes and actions. Normally, this period of time will end after the first report card. Parents will be notified should the probationary period need to be extended.

Alternate Facility in Case of Emergency

In case of emergency evacuation, the students and staff will proceed to the Prince of Peace Manor until the situation is rectified, or parents can pick up their children, signing them out with the designated on-site staff person.

Appeal Process

As a school, we uphold every person's right to fair and unbiased treatment, and we uphold the Biblical principles which see conflict as an opportunity to live out and grow in our faith. As a Christian community, we expect all concerns to be addressed appropriately and respectfully. Our students will learn from watching how adults deal with conflict.

In all situations, we uphold the following principles of procedural fairness:

1. You have a right to be informed about decisions being considered that directly affect you.
2. You will be given a reasonable opportunity to make oral or written submissions to the decision-makers on the matter being considered.
3. You have a right to be informed of and be given the opportunity to respond to all information submitted which might influence a decision, prior to that decision being made.
4. You have a right to be informed of decisions made.
5. You have a right to receive a fair and unbiased hearing.

In cases where students or parents feel that they have been unfairly treated, or if they disagree with a decision made by the school, the following process is to be followed:

1. Express your concerns to the person most closely involved in the situation.
2. If this does not resolve the situation, inform the principal in writing of your concern. The principal will then meet with you and those directly involved to work toward resolution. The principal will provide a written summary of the situation, decisions made, and steps taken.

3. If you are not satisfied that you have received fair treatment, you may appeal through the principal, in writing, to the Associate Superintendent of Schools of Rocky View Schools. If this does not bring satisfaction, you may appeal to the Superintendent of Schools.
4. If you are not satisfied that you have received fair treatment from the School Divisional Staff, you may request a review by the Rocky View School Board.
5. Finally, in a limited number of circumstances, you may appeal the decision of the board to the Alberta Minister of Education.

Prince of Peace also has individuals trained in Biblical reconciliation available to assist in reconciliation, and as an alternative to any of the above steps, parents may choose to request assistance from the Reconciliation Team.

Attendance, Absences, and Tardiness

Punctual, regular attendance is important to ensure success at school and helps children develop a sense of responsibility. Students should arrive each day before classes begin, so they can be well prepared for the day.

When students are absent, their parents must inform the school office by 8:45 a.m. A note of explanation must be sent with the children when they return. If parents have advance notice of upcoming absences, they should contact the teachers so that appropriate plans can be made.

If parents or the family doctor desire children to be excused from physical education or recess, a note of explanation is required. Without a note, students will be expected to participate in the normal daily activities.

Attendance – Extended Absences

In the event of any extended absence, other than illness, parents must provide a letter indicating the nature and duration of this absence. The letter should be addressed to the principal, and delivered at least one week prior to the start of the absence. All children are required by The School Act to attend school regularly. Consistent attendance is essential to your child's academic success. Extended absences during the school year affect student performance. Since the materials, concepts and skills covered during class time are often prerequisites to future studies, an extended absence could affect your child's ability to meet curriculum expectations. Please consider this carefully. Teachers are not obligated to provide instructional materials for students due to extended absence.

Classroom Celebrations

During the course of a school year, holidays and special days, both sacred and secular, are marked and observed by our church and society with various types of activities. It is occasionally desirable to change the pace of daily classroom activity in order to include celebration functions which highlight the importance of holidays and special days.

Thanksgiving Day - The primary emphasis will be on instructing and encouraging students to render thanks and praise to God, alone, for all of His blessings to them.

Reformation Day and Halloween - The primary emphasis for October 31st will be the observance of the start of the Protestant Reformation in 1517, for the purpose of educating the students concerning the reasons for, history of, and ongoing impact of the Reformation. The secondary emphasis is placed on the secular observance of Halloween. We ask that parents discourage children from dressing up as "characters" which would be in conflict with the purpose of our school.



Christmas - The primary emphasis will be to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Secondary emphases may include other seasonal themes such as the giving of gifts.

Easter - The primary emphasis will be to celebrate the fact that God the Father did, in fact, raise His Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead on the first Easter Sunday. Because of Jesus' resurrection, we who believe in him do not have to fear death, for his resurrection is ours through faith. Secondary emphasis may be placed on ideas or practices relating to the season.

The following are holidays and special days on which classroom observances and celebrations may take place:

RELIGIOUS	SECULAR
Minor Festivals	Remembrance Day
Beginning of Advent	New Year's
Epiphany	Valentine's Day
Ash Wednesday (Lent)	Mother's and Father's Days
Ascension Day	Birthdays*
Pentecost	Queen Victoria Day
Baptismal Birthdays	

* Please note that if your child is having a private birthday party and is not inviting the entire class, we ask that invitations be distributed discretely after school or directly to their homes and not distributed through the classrooms.

Chapel

Every Wednesday, the students and teachers gather for a chapel service, led by the church and school staff. Parents and friends are always welcome to join us.

There is a voluntary offering taken during each chapel service which goes to special mission projects during the school year.

Class Size and Configuration

Based on class size limits established by Rocky View Schools, our school has set the following class size maximum limits.

	Single Grade Classroom
Kindergarten	20
Grades 1 - 3	22
Grades 4 - 6	25
Grades 7 - 9	25

Exceptions to class size limits can only be made with the approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

Communication With the Home

In any partnership, effective communication is essential. We encourage regular communication between teachers and parents. All teachers will develop a plan of communication for the families in their classrooms. As a school, the following communication opportunities are provided:

Home Visits

During the two weeks before the start of each school year, all teachers arrange to make home visits to their students and their families. These visits give the opportunity to discuss the plans for the year, expectations of the parents and teachers, the individual needs of students, and how ongoing communication will take place. If your family will be out of town during these weeks, please notify the office so alternative plans may be made.

Report Cards

Report cards are distributed three times a year and are intended to give parents a formal evaluation of their children's progress during the year. They are also a tool to celebrate learning and plan for future growth.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

In conjunction with the first two report cards, parents will have an opportunity to meet with their children's teachers and discuss their progress. In the spring, the students lead the conference, demonstrating for their parents what they have learned. These student led conferences are valuable experiences both for parents and students.

Monday Notes

A weekly news bulletin, The Monday Note, will be distributed the first day of each school week. It will be emailed and/or sent home with children and is posted on the school's website under NEWS.

Criminal Record Checks

All employees of the church and school, including substitute teachers, and all volunteers who work with children must undergo a Criminal Record Check. Forms are available in the office. If volunteers are unable to afford the cost for the check, they should speak with the principal.

Damaged or Destroyed Property

We expect our students to treat all school property, including school supplies, equipment, and facilities, with respect. If any property is damaged or destroyed because of deliberate misuse or carelessness, it must be reported immediately to a teacher, and the student's family will be responsible for replacement or repair of the item. Any repairs must meet the satisfaction of the principal.

Discipline Policy

As a Rocky View school, we follow the discipline policy of the division. As a Christian school our approach to discipline flows from our relationship with Jesus Christ. The standards of behaviour are based on God's Law -- the 10 Commandments. Here, we find the commands to love and respect God, honour and respect all those in authority, and treat others in ways which protect and uphold their wellbeing, possessions, and reputations. We expect all members of our school community to accept these standards of godly behaviour.

Our goals are for students to learn these standards, desire to live by them, and have the courage to do what is right, even when it is difficult.

We understand that while God's Law sets the standards for good behaviour, it is unable to nurture a desire to do what is right. Only God's forgiving power and unconditional love can work this desire in our hearts. We know our students are children loved by God, redeemed through Jesus' death and resurrection. It is in this context that we are able to help our students recognize when they have done wrong, offer them forgiveness, and help them live according to God's desire for our lives. The students then are free to learn in a setting which both upholds high moral standards and allows for a loving, safe environment where we can learn to live with each other in a community.

This process of teaching self discipline involves parents, and for that reason, parents will be notified if a pattern of inappropriate behaviour develops.

Code of Conduct

Our school expects all members of our school community to be respectful and responsible.

RESPECT:

- We are to respect God and His name.
- We are to respect all those in authority and listen to what they say.
- We are to respect other people, their space, their property, and their reputations.
- We are to respect ourselves.

RESPONSIBILITY:

- We are responsible for our attitudes and our actions.
- We are responsible for our jobs as students and teachers.
- We are responsible for our possessions.
- We are responsible for our school.
- We are responsible to care for each other.

A life of respect and responsibility means avoiding ungodly behaviour such as theft, lying, gossip, slander, profanity, vulgarity, sexual immorality, violent behaviour, threatening behaviour (including written or email threats) and use of harmful substances such as tobacco or illegal drugs. In addition, possession of any weapon is prohibited. These include: firearms, knives, bb guns, pellet guns, or any projectile firing devices. This behaviour will lead to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion.

Bullying

Bullying occurs when one person intentionally hurts another, by using hurtful words or threats, physical intimidation, assault, or social exclusion. Every member of our school community deserves to be safe and secure at school and free from bullying. In order to prevent bullying from occurring, anyone who is bullied or witnesses bullying is to report the situation to the teachers immediately. Parents are also encouraged to speak with administration if they suspect a bullying problem. Any students involved in bullying will be dealt with according to the discipline policy of the school. It is everyone's responsibility to keep our school safe for all.

Progression of Consequences for Inappropriate Behaviour

To help students learn self discipline and practice good behaviour, teachers and administration will respond to misbehaviour by:

- Reminding the student of the expectations
- Warning the student of the consequences of poor choices
- Assigning logical consequences
- Removing the student from the situation (for example, giving a time out or rearranging seating)
- Removing a privilege (for example, recess)
- Confiscation of items that are a distraction or not allowed
- Assigning a task
- Removing the student from the classroom
- Having the student phone a parent or guardian to explain the problem
- In-School or Out-of-School Suspension
- Disciplinary Probation
- Expulsion

Any of these steps may be used when deemed appropriate, and parents may be notified at any point, especially if a pattern of misbehaviour arises.

Tattling vs. Telling

Children have to be taught the difference between tattling (which is discouraged) and telling (which is encouraged).

Very simply,

TATTLING is when children tell the teacher something to get other children IN trouble.

TELLING is when children tell the teacher something to get other children, or themselves, OUT OF trouble. When someone is being hurt or needs help, it is appropriate to get help from a teacher. This is not tattling.

Use of Technology

Courtesy and respect are the foundations for positive social interactions. As a school community, we hold one another and ourselves accountable for interactions that foster respect and trust. As a learning community, it is our responsibility to model courtesy to ensure the privacy and safety of others, and to

maintain the integrity of the learning environment. We expect our students to conduct themselves courteously and with responsibility when using technology. Electronic devices and/or technology tools, as directed by staff members, can be powerful tools for learning when used in a manner that fosters learning with respect and trust. Inappropriate use of electronic devices can negatively affect a safe and caring learning environment. In any space where learning is expected, a device or technology that will negatively affect the learning of any student and/or staff should not be used and may be removed.

Students have access to technology both at school and in their homes. Students who use electronic media (such as social networking sites or email) to impersonate, intimidate, threaten or demean other students or teachers may be suspended from school, whether the messages were posted from school or from another location. Students participating in on-line conversations that include any of the above messages may also receive school consequences if they do not immediately exit the conversation and report it to the school administration. The school reserves the right to involve police in any of these situations, if the actions are criminal in nature.

Playground and School Wide Rules

In addition to acting responsibly and treating others with respect, the following rules apply:

- No play fighting.
- Hands off (no pulling, grabbing, kicking, tackling or hitting)
- All equipment is to be used as designed. No hanging off basketball hoops or walking up slides.
- With the exception of balls being used for a game, no throwing objects, including snowballs.
- No kicking or throwing balls against the building.
- No climbing on fences.
- No running in hallways.
- At recess times, all students are to remain outside in the designated play area unless they are given permission by a teacher to do otherwise.
- No bikes, scooters, or skateboards are allowed during school time.
- Students are not allowed to chew gum at school.
- Students are not to bring large amounts of cash to school.
- Students must not leave the school property for any reason unless accompanied by their parent/guardian or a teacher.

Suspension and Expulsion

In cases of serious misbehavior, Prince of Peace follows Rocky View Schools' policy for suspension and expulsion. You may find this policy at www.rockyview.ab.ca under "Our Board/Policies".

Emergency Phone List

At the beginning of each year, an emergency phone list of all school families will be distributed, and, in case of school closure or other emergencies, we ask families to cooperate in spreading the news. Please ensure your information is correct.

Emergency Response

Prince of Peace, along with all other Rocky View Schools, are part of an emergency response plan called Hour Zero. For more information, please refer to the divisional website, under the parent tab. The direct link is:

http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/parents/assets_parents/RVS-Parent-Summary.pdf

Finances

Families are charged an alternative school fee, which covers non-instructional costs of the program related to our Christian mission as a school. A portion of this fee, \$100 per family, is collected at the time of registration and is non-refundable. Financial Assistance forms are available in the office.

2014-2015 Fee Schedule

	Kindergarten	Grades 1-9	Bussing
Oldest Child	\$250	\$500	575
Second Child	\$200	\$400	500
Other Children	\$150	\$300	500

In addition to the Alternative School Fee, Prince of Peace will also charge the Instructional Supplies and Materials Fees charged by all Rocky View Schools. These fees currently are as follows (to be reviewed in spring for the fall term):

Kindergarten: \$25/year

Grades 1-8: \$105/year

Grade 9: \$145/year (\$40 of which goes toward graduation)

Payment of Fees

Registration Deposits: are due at the time of registration or re-enrollment. The Registration Deposit is non-refundable.

Instructional Resource Fees: are due in **FULL** by November 1st

School Fees and Bus Fees: Regardless of the payment option chosen, 1/3 of the fees must be paid by each of the following dates:

* November 1st, February 1st and June 1st

* ALL school and bus fees must be paid in **FULL** by June 1st.

Parents have the following options for payment of tuition:

- 1) School Cash Online Payments
- 2) Lump sum payment during *READY, SET, GO Week*. (School Cash Online, VISA, Mastercard, Direct Debit, Cash, Cheques)
- 3) 10 equal payments postdated cheques (must be dated the 1st of each month ONLY) and School Cash Online automatic recurring preauthorized debits.
- 4) 4 Installments (September 1st, November 1st, February 1st and June 1st)
Postdated cheques or School Cash Online

Other Fees

1. A \$25 administration fee will be applied to each change in bussing arrangements.
2. A \$25 fee will be charged for payments that are not honored by the issuer's bank (RTD)

Other Costs

Occasionally, there will be opportunities for parents to make extra purchases for their students, such as hot lunches and scholastic book orders. Parents should send cheques to the school at these times. If they choose to send cash and the cash goes missing, the school is not responsible.

Head Lice Policy

Parents who have been notified of head lice infestations within their families must do everything possible to eliminate the risk of spreading head lice to other families.

PROCEDURES

1. Reminders concerning the prevention of and procedures for dealing with head lice will be sent home each fall.
2. Students will be checked if the existence of head lice is suspected.

3. Parents of children who are infested with head lice will be notified and information regarding procedures and responsibilities will be given to the student to take home.
4. Infested children may return the next school day if they have had the first treatment and a letter signed by the parent verifying this.
5. A follow-up check will be done to ensure the head lice have been cleared.
6. Families with repeat infestations will be notified and asked to take their child(ren) to the Calgary Health Services for advice on treatment and written verification that the head lice no longer exist. They may return to school at such time as this is completed.

Health and Medication

Medications

If a child requires medication at school, the parents must fill out a permission form and give specific, written instructions for administration. No medication of any kind will be administered by school staff unless it is part of a physician authorized medical treatment plan.

Communicable Disease Control - Public Health Regulations

Children need not be excluded from school for minor illnesses, but in the following situations, a child should remain at home for recovery.

- Illness that results in a greater need for care than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.
- The child has any of the following conditions: fever, lethargy, uncharacteristic irritability, persistent crying, diarrhea, blood or mucus visible in stool, vomiting (two or more times in the previous 24 hours) or difficulty breathing.

Condition	May Return to School
• Pink or Red Eye	24 hours after treatment is initiated
• Impetigo	24 hours after treatment is initiated
• Strep Throat	24 hours after treatment is initiated
• Chicken Pox	When the child feels well enough to return
• Whooping Cough	After completion of 5 days of antibiotic therapy
• Mumps	9 days after onset of parotid gland swelling
• Mononucleosis	When the child feels well enough to return
• Measles	With permission from Public Health
• Lice	When approved treatment is completed

Homework

When students are given assignments, they are often provided time to work on them during school hours. Students are expected to use this time well and to complete unfinished assignments as homework.

Progressively, more homework is expected of students as they approach the upper grades. Although the length of time required to complete assignments varies with each child, it is fair to expect approximately 10 minutes of nightly homework for each grade the child has completed. For example, students in grades 1 or 2 might expect between 10 and 20 minutes of homework in the evening, while students in grades 8 or 9 might spend up to an hour and a half in homework. If you find your child is spending considerably more than this amount of time completing assignments at home, please contact the teacher.

We encourage parents to establish a regular study place and quiet time each evening where the children are expected to complete their assignments. If there is no homework in the evening, we suggest that the regular homework time be spent reviewing or reading.

If a situation arises at home which makes the completion of homework impossible, please send a written note of explanation to the teacher.

Honour Roll and Honourable Mention

Each term, students in grades 5-9 who achieve an average grade of 90% or higher in the five core subjects (LA, math, science, social studies and Christian studies) will be placed on the Honour Roll. Students achieving an average grade between 80% and 90% on the five core subjects will receive Honourable Mention.



Hours

The hours for the 2014-2015 school year are as follows:

Doors Open for Drop Off

8:15 a.m.

GRADES 1-5	Monday - Thursday	Friday
Warning Bell	8:25	8:25
Start of Day (devotions and attendance)	8:30-8:40	8:30-8:40
Learning Time	8:40-10:10	8:40-10:10
Break/Recess	10:10-10:25	10:10-10:25
Learning Time	10:25-11:55	10:25-11:55
Lunch (eating)	11:55-12:15	11:55-12:15
Lunch (recess)	12:15-12:45	12:15-12:45
Transition Time	12:45-12:50	12:45-12:50
Learning Time	12:50-3:05	12:50-1:50
End of the Day Wrap up and Prayer	3:05-3:10	1:50-1:55
Bus Departure	3:25	2:10

GRADES 6-9	Monday - Thursday	Friday
Warning Bell	8:25	8:25
Start of Day (devotions and attendance)	8:30-8:40	8:30-8:40
Block 1	8:40-9:25	8:40-9:25
Block 2	9:25-10:10	9:25-10:10
Break/Recess	10:10-10:20	10:10-10:20
Block 3	10:20-11:10	10:20-11:10
Block 4	11:10-11:55	11:10-11:55
Lunch (eating)	11:55-12:15	11:55-12:15
Lunch (recess)	12:15-12:40	12:15-12:40
Transition Time	12:40-12:45	12:40-12:45
Block 5	12:45-1:30	12:45-1:50
Break	1:30-1:35	
Block 6	1:35-2:20	
Block 7	2:20-3:05	
End of the Day Wrap up and Prayer	3:05-3:10	1:50-1:55
Bus Departure	3:25	2:10

Kindergarten	Monday - Thursday	Friday
Morning Kindergarten	8:30-11:25	8:30-10:55
Afternoon Kindergarten	12:15-3:10	11:30-1:55
Bus Departure	3:25	2:10
Note: Both classes have a 15 minute recess break.		

Note: If students need to be dropped off earlier or picked up later, arrangements must be made in the office and parents must be aware that students will be unsupervised and required to wait in the designated areas of the school.

Late or Incomplete Assignments

Teachers give assignments so that students will succeed in school, and we as a school expect students to complete these assignments on time. We are building a school culture where students complete their work on time. In order to accomplish this, we need the cooperation of the students and their families. Students failing to complete assignments will be referred to our accountability room to ensure the work is completed. We do not penalize late work by removing marks, because the marks should reflect the student's understanding of the concept, not the time it was turned in. The penalty for not getting work done on time is to get it done in the accountability room. If work is not completed by the end of the term, a mark may be withheld because there is insufficient evidence to determine the student's understanding of the material covered.

Lockers and Desks

Students may be assigned lockers and the school will provide them with locks in the fall. The school has the right to search all areas provided to students for personal storage such as lockers and desks in order to maintain school discipline and ensure student safety.

Lost and Found

Lost and Found items can be placed in the box outside the office (beside the vending machines). Please check this box often for your child's items. Any unclaimed items will be donated to good-will.

Parking and Student Drop Off

Parents when visiting the school or picking up/dropping off their children must use the parking lot. The drop-off loop in front of the school is reserved for quick drop offs only, and under no circumstances should vehicles park there. The bus loading area is located at the north of the building to avoid congestion and improve student safety.

Personal Items From Home

As a general rule, items from home such as toys or collections should not be brought to school. Any personal items students do bring, including electronics, are brought at their own risk, and if they become distractions, the items will be confiscated by a teacher. Any valuables brought to school can be given to a school administrator for safe storage.

Promotion and Retention

Best educational practice, based on numerous longitudinal research studies, shows that students achieve the greatest success when they proceed through grades with appropriate supports to meet their learning needs. We very seldom retain a student to repeat a grade.

In cases when the school feels it is in the best interest of the child to repeat a grade, parents will be informed as soon as possible, and the school will seek their input in making a final decision. The final decision rests with the school principal.

School Closure

During severe weather conditions as well as at other times, it is ultimately the responsibility of parents to determine if it is unsafe for their children to depart for school.

In the event that school has to be canceled for any reason, including inclement weather, the following procedures will be followed to notify parents:

1. The school will make a reasonable attempt to contact parents by phone through the use of the emergency contact list.
2. Decisions to close school because of inclement weather or other emergencies for all Rocky View Schools will be announced on radio stations CBC, CHFM Lite96, 66 CFR, JACK FM, QR77, Country 105, CKMX 1060, CJAY 92 and on CTV, City TV and Global News Morning Edition.
3. Information regarding school closure or operational delays will also be available on the school website (www.princeofpeace.ca) and on the Rocky View Schools website (www.rockyview.ab.ca).
4. In the event that school is open but an individual bus driver deems it unsafe to drive his/her route, the driver will telephone parents. Parents will have the option of transporting their children to school but, unless otherwise informed by their bus driver, must be prepared to pick up the children at the end of the school day.

School Initiatives

Because we want our students to be successful leaders, we as a school have developed a very clear plan to move our school toward excellence. The entire staff is committed to working together in two primary areas: school culture and instructional design, focusing on a total of eight common school initiatives. More information on each initiative is available on our school website.

SCHOOL CULTURE: To create a positive school culture that nurtures godly leadership, we have adopted three initiatives.

- **Leader in Me:** This program uses Stephen Covey's "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" to help every student develop personal leadership skills.
- **Peacemakers:** This program teaches students how to apply biblical principles to conflict. These principles include how to acknowledge our role in the conflict and admit where we are wrong, how to ask for forgiveness, how to forgive others, and how to come up with solutions that respect everyone. These steps lead to true reconciliation.
- **Love and Logic:** This is an approach to student behaviour that helps students take ownership for their problems and learn from natural consequences in a loving environment.

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN: To provide students with meaningful and challenging learning experiences that prepare them for godly leadership, we have adopted five initiatives.

- **Understanding by Design:** A planning process teachers use to focus on the most important concepts in the curriculum and help students truly understand them so that they can apply them in various contexts.
- **Balanced Assessment:** Providing students with a clear picture of what they are aiming for in their learning and timely feedback on their progress so that they can adjust their learning and experience success.
- **Universal Design for Learning:** Providing choices for students in class (in how they receive information, show what they know, and connect the material to their personal interests) so that all students experience success, no matter what learning styles, strengths or challenges they bring.
- **21st Century Skills:** We focus on the skills students need to find success in this rapidly changing world. These skills include the ability to communicate and collaborate, to creatively solve problems with innovative ideas, understand and responsibly use the media and

technology, and to understand and positively contribute to global issues.

- **Theothreads:** Using Understanding by Design as a foundational approach, our staff has identified 12 big ideas of the Christian faith, our Theothreads. Teachers weave at least one of these concepts into each unit they teach.

School Supplies

At the beginning of the year, the school will determine which supplies are provided by the school and which must be provided by parents, and will communicate this on the website. Parents will be responsible for the replacement of any supplies destroyed through misuse.

Selection of Classroom Materials and Activities

As a Christian school, we do not treat our faith as just another subject taught in isolation from other subjects. Instead, our Christian faith is the foundation from which every subject in our school is taught. It is our goal that our students will learn how our faith affects every aspect of our lives.

Some feel that the best approach to teaching our children the faith is to protect them from all secular influences. Advocates of this approach would champion strict censorship criteria for library books and classroom content.

We as a school agree that it is essential for teachers and parents to make prudent decisions concerning the materials to which our young people are exposed. Such materials must always be appropriate to their age and ability to distinguish right from wrong. However, instead of sheltering our students from all non-Christian influences, we see the importance of equipping them to be wise and discerning as they come into contact with a variety of different ideas. Therefore, our curriculum and library include both Christian and secular resources, activities and literature. For more information on how we teach discernment, please speak to the school principal.

Transportation (Contact Phone Number 403-620-6503)

The following policies apply to those students who have registered to ride the school buses:

- Prince of Peace Lutheran School's bus service does not provide door to door service and may require parents to drop off and pick up students at the closest designated stop.
- The route and meeting times may change during the year.

- Parents must ensure that children are dropped off and picked up at the designated spot on time, as delays affect the entire schedule.
- If students are late at the pickup point, the bus will not wait more than 2 minutes past the scheduled pick up time. Times are based on official time (cell phone towers or the internet).
- If parents are late at the drop off point, they will be charged a \$10 fee. Students will be kept on the bus and parents will be called to make arrangements for pick up.
- Students must be appropriately dressed for the weather, in case there is a break down. If they are not, they may be denied bus service.
- If students do not require service on a particular day, parents will notify the bus driver either in writing or by calling the bus cell phone (403-620-6503).
- Children must follow the student code of conduct (see below) and treat the driver with respect at all times. Repeated discipline problems may result in the temporary suspension or permanent removal of bus privileges.
- Parents will report to the bus driver in writing on the back of the bus registration form any special concerns including allergies or issues which affect their children's behavior on the bus.
- Parents are responsible for paying the annual bussing fee.
- Students will not be allowed to be dropped off at an alternate stop unless a signed note from the parents of both children is given to the transportation coordinator in advance. Such requests may be denied if there is not room on the bus. Students not regularly on the bus may ride the bus only if they are going to a designated drop off point, if parents have given written permission in advance, and if there is room for the children on the bus.
- Please note that parents are responsible to get children to and from the designated stops at the appropriate time, and these times may change during the year.
- Parents must fill out a new, updated registration form if their family's address or contact information changes during the school year.
- If students are normally transported home by their parents, we require parents to call the school office or provide a written note if students are going to go home with a different family (for a play date, for example) or if someone out of the ordinary will be picking them up.

Bussing - Student Code of Conduct

Students on the bus remain under the responsibility and authority of the school and are expected to follow all school rules. Bus safety is the responsibility of the bus driver, school bus passengers and their parents. Parents and students are asked to be familiar and supportive with the following Code of Conduct:

1. Following the instructions of the bus driver at all times.

The driver is in full charge of the bus and responsible for your safety.

2. **Being considerate of other passengers and the bus driver.**

Mutual consideration creates a pleasant atmosphere on the bus. There is zero tolerance of personal harassment of bus drivers or other passengers. Harassment is any behavior that denies individuals their dignity and respect.

3. **Having respect for the bus and its contents.**

Parents/students will be expected to pay for damage caused by the student.

4. **Sitting squarely in the seat, facing forward. Keep head, limbs and objects inside the bus and out of the bus aisle.**

This is the safest way to travel on a school bus and may prevent serious injury.

5. **Keeping noise on the bus to a minimum.**

Loud noises or shouting are dangerously distracting to the driver.

6. **Arriving at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to the scheduled pick up time.**

If passengers are punctual the bus driver is able to maintain a schedule and students will arrive at school on time.

Transporting Articles and Equipment

The Transportation Department will try to accommodate students with the transportation of articles and equipment for extra-curricular activities. However, some items will not be able to be transported due to safety concerns or available space.

Permissible items include:

Skates or balls enclosed in a canvas bag

Lunch containers

Text books and school supplies

Small band instruments that can be safely stored under the student's seat or on the student's lap

Bag smaller than 13" length x 21" width x 13" depth

Non Permissible items include:

Laser pens

Large band instruments

Hockey sticks, golf clubs, curling brooms

Skis and poles, snowboards

Skateboards

Electronic Devices (mp3 players, cell phones, etc)

While being transported on a school bus, students are prohibited from carrying laser pens, matches or lighters, drugs, alcohol, weapons of any kind, fuel or any other items that may pose a threat to the passengers on the bus. For any other items or for special permission, please check with your school bus driver prior to boarding the school bus.

Uniforms

Halperns is our uniform supplier. All uniform pieces (excluding socks, tights, shoes, belts and bottoms) are required to be purchased through Halperns, or directly through the school's stock of uniforms. Students may continue to wear pre-purchased uniform items that fit the current policy, unless they are in poor repair (ie. Ripped, worn, faded, or dirty-looking).

Halperns Information:

Address: #205, 5911 3 St. S. E. Calgary, AB T2H 1K3

Phone Number: 403-252-9342

Website: <http://www.rjmccarthy.com/>

NOTES:

- Bottoms may be purchased through Halperns or, with prior permission from a school administrator, at other locations, as long as they are equivalent to the bottoms sold through Halperns. Plain black uniform bottoms from other stores such as Old Navy are acceptable without prior approval. Denim and sweat pants are not acceptable. To receive prior permission, please bring the item into an administrator for approval before your child wears it.
- Parents will choose from the items listed. Students are not required to own all the items on the list.
- As of September 2012, there is no required colour of shirts for special occasions.
- Students not complying with the uniform policy will be required to call home and sit in the office until the appropriate clothing is brought for them.

GIRLS

Items that are available for purchase **ONLY** through Halperns:

- Short sleeve French Cut Blouse – with logo (white)
- Short sleeve golf shirt – with logo (white, maroon or green) (girls cut by special order)
- Long sleeve golf shirt – with logo (white, maroon or green) (girls cut by special order)
- Full Zip Hooded sweatshirt – with logo (maroon or green) (by special order)
- Knitted vest – with logo (black)
- V-Neck Pullover – with logo (black)
- Full Zip Fitted Jacket – with logo (black)
- Black and White Tartan Kilt

Items that may be purchased through Halperns or, with prior approval, from another store:

- Girl's Box Pleated Tunic (black)
- Side Pleated skirt (black)
- Casual Dress pants (black)
- ¾ Length Capri Pants (black)
- Walking Shorts (black)
- Yoga Pants (black) – not available at Halperns - may be purchased elsewhere with prior approval

Items that may be purchased through Halperns or elsewhere, no prior approval required:

Neutral-coloured (black, white, grey or brown with minimal colour details) shoes or running shoes. Shoes must have non-marking soles. Shoes that detract from the uniform, shoes with commercial designs (for example "Spiderman"), shoes with wheels, and shoes with flashers are not allowed. In summer, neutral coloured dress-sandals (not flip-flops) are allowed with shorts or skirts.

BOYS

Items that are available for purchase ONLY through Halperns:

- Short sleeve oxford shirt – with logo (white)
- Long sleeve oxford shirt – with logo (white)
- Short sleeve golf shirt – with logo (white, maroon or green)
- Long sleeve golf shirt – with logo (white, maroon or green)
- Full Zip Fitted Jacket – with logo (black)
- Full Zip Hooded sweatshirt – with logo (maroon or green) (by special order)
- Knitted vest – with logo (black)
- Dress sweater – with logo (black)
- Rugby Shirt – with logo (green and maroon) (by special order)

Items that may be purchased through Halperns or, with prior approval, from another store:

- Casual Dress Pants (black)
- Walking Shorts (black)

Items that may be purchased through Halperns or elsewhere, no prior approval required:

Neutral-coloured (black, white, grey or brown with minimal colour details) shoes or running shoes. Shoes must have non-marking soles. Shoes that detract from the uniform, shoes with commercial designs (for example "Spiderman"), shoes with wheels, and shoes with flashers are not allowed. In summer, neutral coloured dress-sandals (not flip-flops) are allowed with shorts.

GIRLS AND BOYS Physical Education mandatory items for Grades 5–9

Items that must be purchased through Halperns:

- Uniform gym t-shirt
- Uniform gym shorts

Items that must be purchased elsewhere, no prior approval required:

Neutral-coloured running shoes with non-marking soles

NOTES:

- Tunics must be worn with a uniform shirt beneath.
- Tunics, skorts and kilts will be worn with plain black or white tights or knee-high socks.
- Shorts for girls and boys will be worn with plain black or white socks, unless students wear sandals.
- Oxford shirts may be tucked in - using a black belt only.
- Oxford shirts may also be worn untucked, - shirts layered beneath are not acceptable.
- Golf shirts or sweatshirts may be layered with plain white or plain black long sleeve shirts that do not hang below the golf shirt or sweatshirt hem.
- Knitted vests will be worn with a uniform shirt beneath.
- Accessories such as jewelry and hairclips that do not detract from the uniform will be allowed.
- No hats are to be worn in the school.
- All uniforms worn to school must be well cared for, clean, and in good condition.

EXPECTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

- It is the expectation that every parent/guardian will work with the school to have their student(s) comply with/follow the above uniform policy.
- Non-compliance with the school uniform policy may result in a phone call home to the parent(s)/guardian(s) requiring the parent(s)/guardian(s) to bring the proper uniform clothing to the school. The student may wait in the office until the parent(s)/guardian(s) arrive(s).

Visitors to the School

All visitors and volunteers coming to the school must sign in and out at the office. This ensures your safety during any school evacuations.

Volunteers

Our school encourages volunteers to help with classroom activities and special events. All volunteers must fill out the school volunteer application form and those working with or supervising students must have a criminal record check completed annually. These may be acquired at the appropriate police department:

Residents of Calgary: Calgary Police

Residents of Chestermere: Chestermere RCMP

Residents of Rocky View County (outside of Chestermere): Strathmore RCMP

The school will provide a letter indicating you are a volunteer, which will reduce or eliminate any fees attached to the record check.

Appendix: Statement of Educational Philosophy

(Included in the Agreement between Rocky View Schools and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church).

Prince of Peace Lutheran School is a Christian school operated by Rocky View Schools and sponsored by Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, a congregation of Lutheran Church-Canada. As such, all matters of faith, whether in the teaching, daily life, and culture, are approached from a confessional Lutheran perspective.

We as a school value excellent education of the whole child, and recognize that there are excellent schools in every system, whether public or private, secular or religious. We also believe that the fundamental beliefs of a particular school impact the educational approach of that school. For parents who hold a Christian worldview, excellent education is best realized when their children's school shares and supports that worldview.

At Prince of Peace, the Christian faith defines every aspect of the school experience, including learning in all subjects and life in a school community.

Building a solid faith foundation involves learning God's word and living the faith. This instruction is not carried out in isolation, but instead is integrated in natural and meaningful ways throughout the curriculum. Academic education and spiritual education are complementary and should be taught together.

Prince of Peace Lutheran School carries out the purpose of Christian education by:

1. providing opportunity for instruction in the Word of God through which the Holy Spirit works;
2. providing sound guidance in daily Christian living;
3. fostering Christian fellowship and relationships;
4. employing professional theologically astute Christian teachers who not only teach the faith, but model it through godly living both in and out of school and are involved in ongoing growth in their understanding of God and His Word, both professionally and personally in a faith community;
5. incorporating the Word of God throughout the entire curriculum;
6. developing in students a sound understanding of grace, repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation;
7. teaching moral and spiritual values which are rightly motivated by spiritual truth; and
8. working to fulfill the spiritual needs of the child, along with physical, emotional, academic, and social needs.

Prince of Peace Lutheran School seeks to establish worship patterns in the child's life through:

1. a weekly school chapel service;
2. regular prayer in the classroom;
3. daily devotions in the classroom; and
4. the singing of spiritual songs.

Prince of Peace Lutheran School presents the Word of God through:

1. regular Bible reading and study;
2. studies within the curriculum;
3. informal discussions; and
4. focusing on Christian values in disciplinary actions (repentance/forgiveness/reconciliation).

The teachers are key in the success of our program, and we understand there is a need for them to be active in a Christian church, be willing to model their faith with their students, and live in a manner consistent with their faith and God's Word.

Christian Studies classes are taught at every level in our school, with a focus on teaching the biblical history of God's work in the lives of His people and having students construct personal meaning and application of the unchanging truths contained in the Bible.

The Prince of Peace Lutheran School program contains all of the core subject areas to be taught at the K-9 grade levels. While instruction in all subject areas complies with Alberta Education learning outcomes, and while many of the resources used while teaching these subjects are the same as those used in secular public schools, the teachers at Prince of Peace Lutheran School use every opportunity to incorporate our Christian faith in all subjects in natural, authentic ways.

Christian Service (Citizenship) to the community and the world also gives our students and faculty opportunities to exercise their faith. We define Christian Service as an act of service, stewardship or kindness to another person/group or the world around us, without compensation being gained by the giver.

Finally, we live out our faith in community. As children interact with each other and with their teachers, they have opportunities to model the Christian life. When hurtful things happen, they are able to work through conflict in ways which restore relationships and offer forgiveness. These skills are modeled and taught by the teachers as well.

What Lutherans Believe – Statement of Faith

Prince of Peace Lutheran School is a school of Lutheran Church-Canada and as such, the Christian doctrine and practice for our school is defined by the confessional stance of LCC. Prince of Peace welcomes students from all cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. In order to help those who are not familiar with what Lutherans believe, we have provided this brief summary.

1. The entire Bible, which points to Jesus as the Saviour, is the inspired and errorless Word of God. It is God's message of love and hope for all people. We employ the historical grammatical approach to biblical interpretation.
2. There is only one true God, who exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. God is the creator of everything that exists.
4. Adam and Eve, our first parents, were originally created by God pure and holy. They lived according to God's will, doing what was pleasing to Him.
5. Adam and Eve, the man and woman God created in the beginning, went against God's will and brought sin into the world. Since that time, all people have been conceived and born in sin.
6. Sin is living out of relationship with God, not living according to God's will. Every person disobeys God by doing, thinking and saying things that are not part of His good plan for us.
7. God punishes sin, and that punishment is eternal death – separation from God and all that is good.
8. People cannot save themselves from the punishment for sin or earn God's favour by doing good things.
9. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. Jesus is both true God and true man. He lived without sin to fulfill God's law for us, died on the cross to pay the penalty our sins deserved, and rose from the dead so that we might have eternal life. Our punishment was His, and His victory over death, through faith, becomes ours.
10. Because of Jesus' death on the cross, God forgives our sins. Then, through Baptism, he makes us part of his family. This is not a result of our effort.
11. Faith in Jesus is a gift of God, given by the power of the Holy Spirit; therefore, we cannot take credit for the faith we have. Instead, we give all

thanks to God for giving us even the ability to believe and trust in Him.

12. God has promised in His Word that He will forgive His people and help their faith to grow, and He has given the Church special gifts to assure people of that promise. We call these gifts the means of grace - the special ways God gives us His underserved gifts of forgiveness, faith and life. The means of grace are God's Word, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

13. Jesus will come again to take all believers to Himself. On the final day, all the dead will be raised. Those who are still alive will be bodily transformed. After this the final judgment will take place. Unbelievers will go into eternal damnation – separation from God in hell, and believers into eternal life with God in heaven.

14. The true Christian church is made up of all believers of all times who believe in the Triune God and in Jesus Christ as their only Saviour.

15. God desires Christians to join together in churches to worship God, learn more about Him, support and encourage one another, serve others in the community, and share His message of love and forgiveness with all people.

16. Christians are called to tell others that the only way of salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ, and to show their faith by their deeds of love toward others.

As part of the belief structure of the Lutheran Church, we express our faith through statements such as the Apostle's Creed:

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

