



# **NEERLANDIA PUBLIC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

“Learning To Serve”

## **General Handbook 2016/2017**

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

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

### **Administration:**

Ms. Lisa Gehring, Principal  
Mrs. Kim Sybesma, Assoc. Principal

### **Teachers:**

Mr. James Bosma  
Mrs. Sonja De Waal  
Mr. Howard Gelderman  
Mrs. Kathi Hellinga  
Mrs. Juanita Henschel  
Mrs. Alvina Nanninga  
Mrs. Renee Rentz  
Mrs. Lorna Strydhorst  
Mrs. Lynn Vold  
Mr. Trenton Wierenga  
Mrs. Lise Wruk

### **Support Staff:**

Mrs. Debbie Fisher, Admin. Assistant  
Mrs. Shirley Rauscher, P.A.  
Mrs. Marion Rayment, P.A.  
Miss Shania Van Beek, P.A.  
Mrs. Geraldine Wierenga, P.A.  
Mrs. Brenda Gelderman, Library Assistant  
Mrs. Dagmar Visser, Library Assistant

### **Custodial:**

Darcy & Laura Van Beek

## NPCS Calendar 2016/2017

### August 29 & 30: Staff Days

Aug. 31 - First day of school

Aug. 31: Grand Opening Breakfast

Sept. 1 -**Kindergarten Groups**

(½ day sessions AM/PM)

**Sept. 5** – *Labor Day holiday*

**Sept. 6** – First full-day of **Kindergarten**

**Sept. 16** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Sept. 23** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Sept. 28** - \* *early dismissal at 2:47 p.m.*

**Sept. 29** – **Terry Fox Day, instructional day**

**Sept. 30** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Oct. 3 - Mon., extra Kindergarten Day**

\***Oct. 4 & 5: Evening Planning Meetings**

**Oct. 6** - *Prof. Development Day, no classes*

**Oct. 7** *Day in lieu of Parent Meetings*

**Oct. 10** – *Thanksgiving Day Holiday*

**Oct. 13** – **Individual Picture Day, a.m.**

**Oct. 21** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Oct. 26** - \* *early dismissal at 2:47 p.m.*

**Oct. 28** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Nov. 4** *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Nov. 11:** *Fri., Remembrance Day*

**Nov. 14:** (**Monday**) *Prof. Development Day, no classes*

**Nov. 25** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Nov. 30-** \* *early dismissal at 2:47 p.m.*

**Dec. 2** - **St. Nick's Day, p.m.(Fri.)**  
\***extra Kindergarten Day**

**Dec. 9** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Dec. 16** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Dec. 21** - **tentative date for Christmas Concert**

*Dec. 23, 2016– Jan. 8, 2017*

– *Christmas Break*

**Jan. 9, 2017** – **first day back in New Year**

**Jan. 13** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Jan. 20** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Jan. 27** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Jan. 30** - **Mon.** *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Jan. 31** –**Tues.** *Prof. Development Day, no classes*

**Feb. 3** –**Friday., extra Kindergarten Day**

**Feb. 6** – **Mon., extra Kindergarten Day**

\* **Feb. 6 & 7** – **Student- Led Conferences**

**Feb. 9 & 10**– **Teachers' Convention Days**

**Feb. 17** – *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Feb. 20** - *Family Day Holiday*

**Feb. 22-** \* *early dismissal at 2:47 p.m.*

**Mar. 3** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Mar. 6 Mon.:** *Prof. Development Day, no classes*

**Mar. 17** - *Day in lieu of Parent Meetings*

**Mar. 20** – **Extra Kindergarten day**

**Mar. 22-** \* *early dismissal at 2:47 p.m.*

**Mar. 23** *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Mar. 24** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**Mar. 23-Apr. 2:** **Spring Break, no classes**

**April 3** – **First day back after Spring Break**

**April 7** - *Prof. Development Day, no classes*

**April 14** – *Good Friday*

**April 17** - *Easter Monday*

**April 26** - \* *early dismissal at 2:47 p.m.*

**April 28** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**May 5** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**May 9** – **P.A.T. Gr. 9 ELA (A)**

**May 11** - **P.A.T. Gr. 6 ELA (A)**

**May 12** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**May 19** - **PHRD Day (no classes)**

**May 22** - *Victoria Day Holiday*

**June 2** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**June 9** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

**June 16** - *Alternate Day, no classes*

–**Grade 9 Grad celebrations**

**June 19** - **P.A.T. Gr. 6 ELA (B)**

**June 20** - **P.A.T. Gr. 6 Math**

**June 21** – **Jr. High Awards Day, 2:30 pm**

**June 22** - **P.A.T. Gr. 6 Social Studies**

**June 23** - **P.A.T. Gr. 6 Science**

**June 23 - 28** - **Jr. High exams**

**June 26** - **P.A.T. Gr. 9 Social Studies**

**June 27** - **P.A.T. Gr. 9 ELA (B)**

**June 28** - **P.A.T. Gr. 9 Math**

**June 29** - **P.A.T. Gr 9 Science**

**June 29** – **Last Day for Students**

**June 30** - **Last Day for Teachers**

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

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

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

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

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year at NPCCS. This school is a unique community, a place of learning and a place for exploring what it means to be a child of God. Working as a community under the guidance of the Word of God, we provide a good academic education which prepares students to translate their faith into action in all areas of learning and living. In short, we are Teaching for Transformation.

Our students are developing a deeper understanding of the biblical story so they will be able to serve others in their learning and play. Each child, being made in God's image, deserves to and has the ability to learn and show their learning in the ways which work best for them.

Because our students are learning how to work with Christ in their daily lives now and in the future, we will set high standards and at the same time do everything in our power to make their academic learning a joyful, exciting experience. Our prayer for them is that they will grow in their academic studies, their social interactions and their spiritual maturity at this school.

You can follow your child’s progress on the Internet via PowerSchool. Parents can now set-up to use just one password to view all of the children’s information & reports. Please let us know if you need help to access this resource. Better yet, we welcome your questions, concerns and suggestions by phone or a visit.

Lisa Gehring,  
Principal

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

NPCS is a unique school in which the community and the parents are the guardians of the vision that drives us. The School Council's role is to provide community input and advise in order to support the education of the students. The Christian Education Society is especially charged with promoting and supporting the Christian character of the education at this school.

The NCES ensures that the teachers have access to Christian curriculum resources and professional development, including the Christian Educators Association's annual convention. The Society subsidises bus costs for students from Barrhead and outside the Neerlandia attendance area. They also provide a Pre-School program, taught by Mrs. Jill Olthuis this coming year.

As a parent you have the opportunity and calling to be actively involved in the school through the School Council and NCES board.

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

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

The School Council and Education Society usually meet on the last Monday of every month.

## **NPCS Guidelines**

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

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

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

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

### **Absences**

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

### **Student Behavior**

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

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

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

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

### **Discipline**

Teachers at NPCS know that there will be occasions when student behaviour does not meet expectations. Their love for the students will then compel them to take appropriate measures to correct that behaviour. Teachers will be guided by the principle that all disciplinary action is

intended to help and guide the student in the right path. The ultimate goal of disciplining is to assist students in becoming self-disciplined.

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

## **Bullying and Fighting**

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

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

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

God's children should not do these things to each other and should not have to suffer them from each other. We should be celebrating our differences and learning how to use our differences to make the world a better place.

## **Technology**

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

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

Students are required to follow Pembina Hills Public School policies with respect to the use of technology. These policies & forms can be found on the PHPS website: AP80-01 Digital Citizenship & AP80-05 Technology Acceptable Use agreement (completed by students/parents). Failure to follow these policies can lead to a suspension or removal of student access to division technology, including accessing of PHPS wireless connections by personal devices.

## Dress Code

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



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

## Footwear

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

## Homework and Assignments

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



## School Emergencies

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

### What should parents do in an emergency?

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



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

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

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

Before an emergency happens:

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

### **School Cancellation**

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



**NPCS  
is an  
Allergy Sensitive School**

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

That means:

1. We will educate our students and parents on an on-going basis about the dangers that these allergies pose and about our responsibility to respond with loving carefulness.
2. We are going to create as safe an environment as possible for all students.
  - a. **In some classrooms**, for example, we **may** place an absolute ban on any nut products whether in lunches or snacks of any kind. Because that is the source of the most immediate danger, this rule will be very strictly enforced, even if it means confiscating a lunch and working to find replacement food. This will be clearly communicated by the homeroom teacher. As in any allergy sensitive environment, snacks which are meant to be shared should be clearly labeled so that students will know whether or not they can eat them.
  - b. We will also require students to keep the use of perfumes and perfumed deodorants to an absolute minimum. Spray cans of perfumes used in the halls will be used to decorate the office.
3. Junior High students who would like to continue to visit the Co-op during breaks may not misuse that privilege to purchase snacks that would be banned in the school.

Parents and students, please be allergy aware and pack lunches and snacks accordingly. Consider what you would do to show your love for God. Wouldn't sacrificing a peanut butter sandwich for someone seem insignificant by comparison?