



Box 30  
Buck Lake, Alberta  
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780 - 388 -3900



**2025-2026**

# SCHOOL HANDBOOK

**Buck Mountain Central School**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide current and prospective students and their parents or guardians with information on the routines, procedures, and learning expectations at Buck Mountain Central School. This handbook supplements, but does not replace, the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools approved Administrative Procedures.





**We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and traveling route to the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene, Nakota Sioux and Anishinaabe. We acknowledge all the many Indigenous Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for time immemorial. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.**

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# Buck Mountain Central School

Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools

780 - 388 - 3900

Box 30, Buck Lake, Alberta, T0C 0T0

[bm@wrps11.ca](mailto:bm@wrps11.ca)

[buckmountain.ca](http://buckmountain.ca)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**School Motto: "Respect - Responsibility - Results!"**

### SCHOOL BACKGROUND

Buck Mountain Central School is a rural school that serves students from Grades 7 to 12. Currently the student population is approximately 160 students. The school was built in 1991 and is located at the south end of Buck Lake, a beautiful recreational area approximately 102 kilometers west of Wetaskiwin on Highway 13.

A diverse academic program is offered at Buck Mountain Central School, which provides students various pathways to high school completion and seeks to ensure all students achieve their full potential. Core courses are complemented by fine arts, industrial education, communications, computer science, foods, physical and outdoor education, drama, a number of other Career & Technology Studies (CTS) options, and a growing number of off-campus learning opportunities.





# MISSION STATEMENT

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At Buck Mountain Central School, we passionately engage our diverse students every day by genuinely connecting and supporting them on their learning journey towards high school completion and life beyond our doors.

# VISION STATEMENT

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Buck Mountain Central is a school community where all learners feel safe, supported, and celebrated. Relationships form the foundation of what we do, empowering individuals to reach their full potential as lifelong learners.

# VALUES

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**To enact our vision, the staff of Buck Mountain Central School:**

- engage with families and surrounding communities in support of student learning
- model the behaviours of a lifelong learner and a responsible citizen
- communicate candidly, collaboratively, and continuously
- cultivate genuine relationships
- foster learning beyond the classroom (for example by providing enrichment opportunities and access to extracurricular activities)
- respond to the diverse needs of our students
- celebrate strengths and successes
- respond to challenges by modeling resiliency
- recognize and respect cultural diversity provide timely, effective academic interventions focused on literacy and numeracy skills





# 2025-2026 BUCK MOUNTAIN CENTRAL SCHOOL STAFF

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## Principal

Christopher Gardner

## Vice Principal

Patrick Granger

## Teachers

Bailey Harden

Eric Wolney

Tristin Kramer

Linda Kwirant (Inclusion Coach)

Ben Meuser

Judy Miller (Success Coach)

Julian Moore

Chad Schenk

Timothy Stewart (Athletic Director)

Bailey Wassing

## Educational Assistants

Colleen Clague

Jocelyn Gomolchuk

Priscilla Keates

Lana Spiller

## Wellness Coach

Peyton Schneider

## Family School Liason

Kandice Wynia

## Indigenous Support Worker

Wayne Caron

## Administrative Assistants

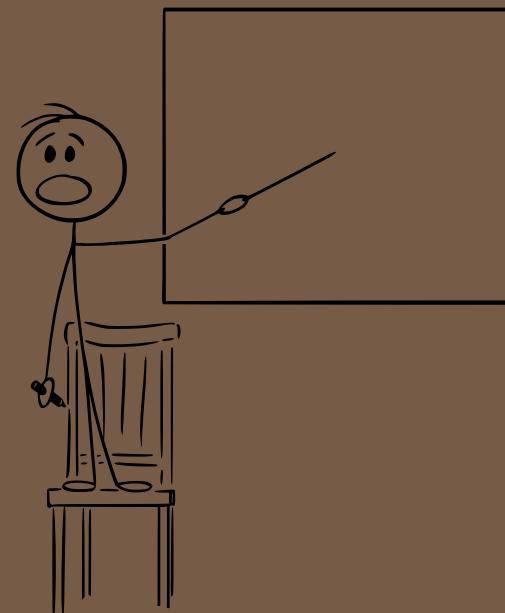
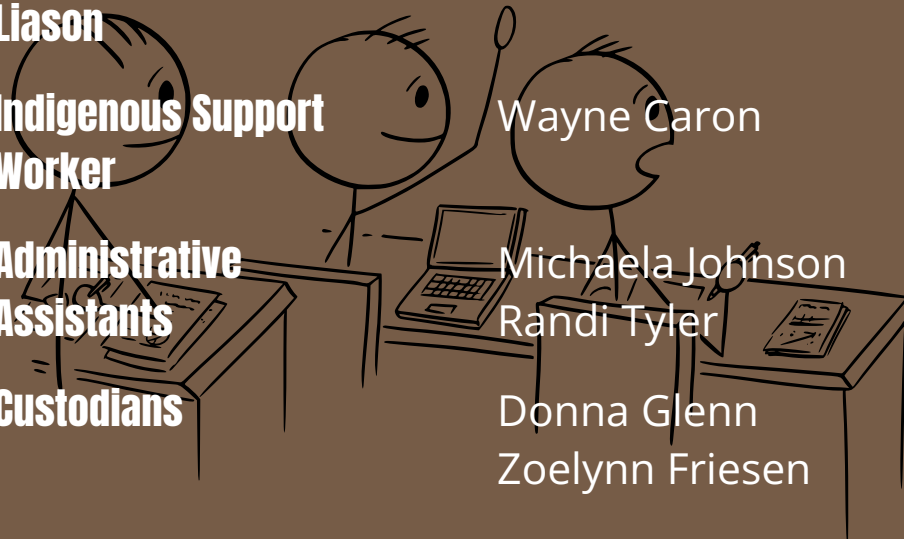
Michaela Johnson

Randi Tyler

## Custodians

Donna Glenn

Zoelynn Friesen



# Daily Operations

## Hours Of Operation

- Monday to Friday (8:00am - 4:00pm)

## School Calendar

- September 2, 2025 - June 25, 2026
- [\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#) to access Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools' 'School Year Calendar,' indicating all holidays and non-instructional days.

## Daily Timetable

8:40am

8:43am - 8:55am

8:55am - 9:35am

9:35am - 10:15am

10:15am - 10:20am

10:20am - 11:00am

11:00am - 11:40am

11:40am - 12:10pm

12:10pm - 12:50pm

12:50pm - 1:30pm

1:30pm - 1:35pm

1:35pm - 2:15pm

2:15pm - 2:55pm

3:00pm

Warning Bell

Directed Learning

Period 1

Period 2

Break

Period 3

Period 4

Lunch

Period 5

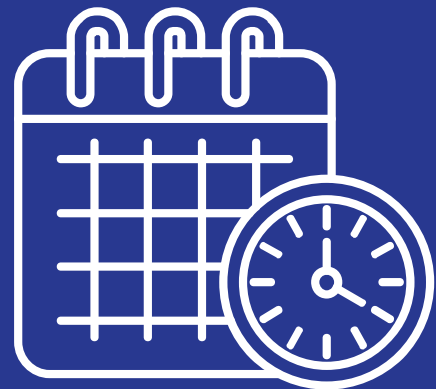
Period 6

Break

Period 7

Period 8

Bus Pick Up



- Daily smudging available during Directed Learning & Period 1.
- Buses leave Buck Mountain Central School at 3:00pm.
- Teachers will mark students late who arrive during the first fifteen minutes of a class, and absent if they arrive after the first fifteen minutes.
- Junior High students are dismissed to the galleria for lunch at 11:25am.



# STUDENT SUPPLY LIST

Parents are encouraged to buy a Chromebook for their child(ren) to use at school & at home. This is completely optional as WRPS will continue to provide Chromebooks for student use; however, there are many benefits to BYOD (Bring Your Own Device). [Read more here.](#)

**This list is a starting point for students and in unique circumstances, additional supplies may be needed in which case, parents will be contacted.**

- Pencils - 24 Pack
- Pencil Sharpener with Container
- Blue Pens - 12 Pack
- 2 (2 - 3 Inch) Binders
- Pencil Crayons - 12 Pack
- Composition Book (Black & White)
- Thin Felt Markers - 12 Pack
- 1 Set of 5 Dividers
- 4 Highlighters
- 200 Sheets Lined Loose Leaf Paper
- Scientific Calculator
- 2 Duotangs
- 2 Erasers
- Safety Glasses (Science & IA Class)
- 3 Glue Sticks
- Gym Clothes (T-shirt, Shorts & Track Pants)
- Scissors
- Inside Non-marking Athletic Shoes
- Ruler
- Ear Buds
- 2 Dry Erase Markers
- Refillable Water Bottle



Students find it helpful to have their own mouse and headphones to use with Chromebooks - not a required supply.

Please note: Students entering Math 10C, Math 20-1, Math 20-2, Math 30-1, and Math 30-2 need a graphing calculator.



## **LOCKERS**

Students are issued a school locker and lock on the first day of school. Combination locks will be obtained from the school and combinations kept on file in the office. All other locks are not permitted. Lockers must be locked when not in use. Failure to follow these rules will result in loss of locker privileges.

**All student lockers belong to Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools and are rented to students on a year-to-year basis.**

- Students and parents or guardians must sign a [locker-rental agreement](#) before being assigned a locker. There is a one time fee for new students to the school.
- Students should not have an expectation of privacy in regards to the lockers they rent from Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools.
- Student lockers may be subject to unannounced searches by school administration and/or by outside law enforcement agencies.

## **Student Fees**

["The Division, parents and independent students have shared responsibility for the costs of instructional supplies, materials, off-site activities and transportation."](#) Various student fees are payable in September, related to each child's educational programming. Students will receive a fee schedule at that time. If payment of school fees is a concern, parents are encouraged to contact the school to make alternative arrangements.



## INCLEMENT WEATHER, SCHOOL CLOSURES & BUS STATUS

Student safety is our first priority and a shared responsibility at Buck Mountain Central School, and it is a parent's or guardian's decision to keep a student home due to road conditions

Guided by Wetaskwin Regional Public Schools' '[Administrative Procedure 132 - Inclement Weather](#),' the school division may be closing schools during severe weather conditions. The rationale for closing some or all of the schools is that there are times when it is not safe for parents and staff to be on the road due to the adverse road conditions.

**[CLICK HERE TO CHECK THE BUS STATUS](#)**





# STUDENT PARKING

**Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools provides transportation for students to attend school. Students who choose to provide their own transportation on a regular or occasional basis should observe the following rules:**

- Park in the designated area. Enter and leave the school grounds at a speed not in excess of 15 km per hour.
- Students are not permitted to sit in vehicles at any time, nor are they permitted to loiter around the vehicles. This area is out of bounds unless students are arriving or leaving.
- Enter the school grounds quietly and leave quietly (radios, mufflers, etc.).
- Students who do not follow the above rules will not be permitted to bring vehicles to school.
- Students are not allowed to drive other students to school sanctioned extra-curricular events. They are to use the provided bussing as arranged by the school. Prior written permission from a parent or guardian and appropriate insurance, as prescribed by [Administrative Procedure 557](#) is required for students to drive themselves.





# School Communications

The followings mechanisms are in place to keep students, parents, guardians and community members informed about what is happening at Buck Mountain Central School:

- [School Website](#)
- [Google Classroom](#) For Each Subject
- [Teacher Emails](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Virtual Markbooks - PowerSchool](#)
- School Messenger
- Monthly Newsletter (The Mountaineer)
- Monday Memo
- Community Engagement Nights
- Parent-Teacher Interviews
- School Council/Parent Advisory Group
- Parents' Association



## MEET THE STAFF

### Semester 1

**September 25, 2025** - Welcome Back BBQ & Student Awards

**November 20, 2025** - Parent - Teacher Interviews

### Semester 2

**February 12, 2026** - Open House Event

**April 29, 2026** - Parent - Teacher Interviews

\*ALL EVENTS ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE FROM 4PM TO 7PM!

# SCHOOL POLICIES & PROCEDURES





# STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Student behaviour is expected to positively contribute to a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment. All members of the school community are expected to model respectful conduct, inclusive behaviour, and an understanding and appreciation for diversity, equity and human rights.

Guided by Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools' [Administrative Procedure 339: Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Education Act](#) (2025), Buck Mountain Central School students have the responsibility to:

- *attend school regularly and punctually,*
- *be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education,*
- *ensure the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning, environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging,*
- *respect the rights of others in the school, including refraining from willfully disrupting or interfering with the learning of others,*
- *refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means,*
- *comply with rules of the school and the policies of the Board,*
- *cooperate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education programs and other services,*
- *be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct, and*
- *positively contribute to the student's school and community.*





## BUCK MOUNTAIN CENTRAL SCHOOL COMMITTMENT TO ANTI-BULLYING

Buck Mountain Central School is committed to the elimination of bullying through the positive involvement and ongoing education of students, parents and staff. It is the belief of the Buck Mountain Central School community that students are not inherently bullies but rather that bullying is a learned behaviour and the behaviours of the bully, the bullied, and the bystanders can be changed.

School routines and procedures are designed to create a safe and caring environment for all students, which promotes respect and has zero tolerance for bullying behaviour. A progressive disciplinary process will be used to address any incidents of bullying, with student welfare and dignity in mind. ([CLICK HERE TO REPORT A BULLYING INCIDENT!](#))



# ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Regular attendance is essential if a student is to achieve maximum benefit from their schooling. A student that is away from school for any reason - vacation, illness, excused or unexcused - has missed opportunities for learning. These missed opportunities can add up over the course of the year, and negatively impact student achievement.

Furthermore, all students are expected to arrive punctually to their classes. Students are recorded as late, if they arrive after a class has started. Those arriving over fifteen minutes late, will be recorded as absent for that class.



# ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

**In addition to daily attendance calls, absenteeism will be closely monitored each month and addressed in a progressive manner, as outlined below:**

## **0% - 10% Absenteeism (Universal Supports)**

Staff will continue to focus on creating a safe, welcoming, caring and respectful learning environment that fosters a sense of belonging among all members of the school community, while promoting regular student attendance.

## **10%-15% Absenteeism (Targeted Supports)**

A letter will be sent home to students and their parents or guardians, advising them of the absences. Classroom teachers will contact home to inquire about absences and offer support in improving attendance.

## **15%+ Absenteeism (Specialized Supports)**

Students are at risk of course withdrawal or referral to appropriate officials within Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools and the provincial attendance board. Counseling support, assistance in networking with community partners, development of academic success or attendance plans, and discussing alternative programming arrangements or a modified timetable are ways in which Buck Mountain Central School staff can support students at this level of monthly absenteeism.





# Cell Phone & Mobile Device Policy

In accordance with [Ministerial Order \(#014/2024\)](#) and Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools' [Administrative Procedure 141 - Cell Phones and Electronic Devices](#), Buck Mountain Central School students may not use cell phones or other mobile devices during instructional time.

## Guidelines for Students:

- Personal cell phones, Smart devices (such as Smart Watches, etc), cameras or recording devices shall not be permitted in instructional areas, locker rooms, washrooms or work sites unless otherwise approved by the supervisor, principal, or teacher.
- Personal devices brought to school shall be secured, on silent mode, and left in the student's locker.
- Should a student contravene this administrative procedure any staff member has the right to confiscate any electronic device and store it in the school office.
- Principals, at their discretion, may release the confiscated electronic device to the student or the parent as they deem appropriate.



Staff and students are expected to dress in a manner suitable for a professional, welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment. School is a public institution and expectations for school attire take into account a student's right to fairness, dignity and respect.

**Coats & Bookbags** - Students should not bring large coats, book bags or duffle bags into classrooms. These items should be stored in lockers during instructional time, to cut down on classroom clutter and potential safety hazards.

**Indoor Shoes** - Students are expected to have a clean, non-marking pair of indoor shoes, to be worn in the school and gymnasium. Outdoor shoes should be removed at the school entrance when conditions are wet or muddy.

**Physical Education** - Students should be prepared for both indoor and outdoor physical education classes throughout the school year. A separate change of clothing (t-shirt and shorts -or- sweat suit) is recommended.

**Career & Technology Studies (CTS)** - Student safety and well being are a top priority within our learning environment. That is why some CTS courses, like our Foods and Industrial Education options, may have specific requirements for clothing or personal protective equipment.



As per Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools' ['Administrative Procedure 352 - Student Discipline'](#), "It is the responsibility of the Principal and teachers to maintain good order and discipline in the school for the purpose of:

- 3.7.1. Developing in each student the capacity for respectful, responsible behaviour;
- 3.7.2. Providing classroom conditions contributing to effective learning; and
- 3.7.3. Protecting the health and safety needs of students and staff."

"To maintain an appropriate level of discipline in a school it may, at times, be necessary to apply negative consequences. The following forms of negative consequences are permissible:

- 3.12.1. Temporary removal from the classroom;
- 3.12.2. Assignment to an alternate activity;
- 3.12.3. Withdrawal of classroom, school or extracurricular privileges;
- 3.12.4. In school suspensions;
- 3.12.5. Suspensions from class or school for durations of five (5) or less school days, as approved by the Principal or designate;
- 3.12.6. Expulsion from school.

Non permissible forms of discipline are:

- 3.13.1. Physical aggression by school staff upon a student;
- 3.13.2. Punishment of innocent persons, mass detentions and mass punishments aimed at unspecified individuals or groups.
- 3.13.3. Verbal attacks such as sarcasm, racial or personal references; and
- 3.13.4. Unreasonable actions that would subject a student to undue ridicule from classmates."



# SUSPENSION

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“The suspension of a student is a serious punitive measure to be invoked when other measures have proven to be ineffective or when the seriousness of the offence warrants such action.” Students and their parents or guardians must be informed of the terms of the suspension and reason whenever such a disciplinary measure is taken. Some reasons for a suspension could include:

- Open opposition to the authority of school or division staff;
- Willful disobedience over a prolonged period or in a single instance where the disobedience endangers students, teachers, building, or the general climate of orderly behaviour;
- Habitual neglect to do assigned work within the students' competence;
- Profane or indecent language or gestures in the presence of others;
- Threats of physical violence or an act of violence against another person;
- Any act of indecency in a school building or on school grounds;
- Failure to obey any reasonable rule, regulation or procedure established to maintain a climate of behaviour conducive to learning;
- Willful or malicious damage to school property;
- Use or possession of drugs or alcohol;
- Chronic acts judged to seriously diminish the rights or privileges of staff and students in their participation in the school process;
- Flagrant acts of any student deemed to be seriously detrimental to the education or welfare of other students and/or staff of the school;
- The student's conduct is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school.

“A student 16 years of age or older, or the parents/guardians, may appeal to the Superintendent or designate who may reinstate the student or confirm the suspension,” if they do not agree with the terms.

# TEACHING & LEARNING EXPECTATIONS



# ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS OF BUCK MOUNTAIN CENTRAL SCHOOL STUDENTS

The academic expectations of students are rigorous. They must:

- Be diligent in pursuing their studies
- Attend school regularly and punctually
- Keep their notebooks and lockers neat and organized
- Be in communication with classroom teachers when they are unable to meet a classroom expectation, such as meeting a deadline
- Complete assignments promptly and submit them on time
- Complete school work on a regular basis, and attend 'Directed Learning' as required

Students can expect to be graded on:

- The various course outcomes, as found in Alberta Education's Programs of Study

[CLICK HERE](#) to explore Alberta Education's Programs of Study, find out more about what students learn in Alberta's K to 12 education system, and get resources to support their learning.





## GOOD STANDING

Students are expected to demonstrate the attributes and characteristics contained in the School's 3-Rs motto – 'Respect, Responsibility, and Results.' Students, who consistently do this remain in good standing and are able to:

- Represent the school in athletics, drama, music and more
- Join extracurricular clubs
- Attend school dances and other student council events
- Have all the privileges available to students at BMC



## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is a “commitment, even in the face of adversity, to six fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action” ([International Center for Academic Integrity, 2014](#)). All students are responsible for gaining the skills and knowledge related to appropriate citation and for applying these skills to all borrowed words, ideas and work. Buck Mountain Central School students are expected to be completing and submitting their own academic work, avoiding instances of plagiarism, as well as any unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to gain an improper advantage on an academic assessment.

## WHAT IS ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT?

Academic Misconduct is when a student gains or attempts to gain an unfair advantage that compromises the integrity of the academic process. This could include, but is not limited to things such as cheating, fabricating and falsifying information, improper collaboration, multiple submissions when not permitted, plagiarism, submission of AI generated content when not permitted, or helping another person commit an act of academic misconduct. Such academic violations could result in an assignment not being accepted, having to redo an assignment in order for it to be assessed, withdrawal from your course, a note on your academic file or other academic consequences depending on the severity of the violation and if it is a repeated offense.

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## COURSE CHANGES

High school students are given the opportunity to drop or change a class according to a strict schedule, within the first two weeks of a semester. Students who wish to change or drop a class need to complete the appropriate form, which is available from the office.

## OPTION CLASSES

Buck Mountain Central School offers a wide variety of learning options across junior and senior high school, including many unique opportunities for high school students to earn credits in areas of interest. Currently our school offers a strong outdoor education program, fine arts, drama, school leadership courses, foods labs, construction and woodworking, physical education, reading foundations options, forensics studies, workplace preparation courses, computer science, Indigenous education opportunities and agricultural studies. Please contact the success coach, Judy Miller, if you are interested in pursuing these pathways or other potential CTS or locally developed courses, approved by Alberta Education. Our partnership with the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools' Outreach program and other educational institutions allow us the ability to provide course options to students at Buck Mountain Central School that are not currently scheduled within our general timetable.





# ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

Teacher assessment is guided by Alberta Education's [Teaching Quality Standard](#) (2023), and Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools' Administrative Procedures '[360 - Classroom Assessment](#),' '[361 - Reporting Student Progress](#),' and the '[Assessment and Reporting Staff Handbook](#).' Buck Mountain Central School teachers understand the importance of varied and quality assessment. They also acknowledge the need to consider observation, conversation and product data in order to accurately determine final grades.

## TIMELY FEEDBACK & ONLINE MARKBOOKS

Buck Mountain Central School teachers are committed to ensuring students receive timely feedback and that online markbooks are updated every ten school days. In addition to quarterly report cards being distributed, students and parents/guardians can track progress anytime by accessing these online markbooks through [PowerSchool](#).



## REPORT CARD DATES

Report Card 1 - November 7, 2025

Report Card 2 - January 30, 2026

Report Card 3 - April 24, 2026

Report Card 4 - June 26, 2026

## FINAL EXAMS

Completion of final course exams on scheduled exam dates is compulsory for all students at the end of a course. Failure to complete these assessments on the scheduled dates will result in a grade of zero being assigned to them.

# RESUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS & IMPROVING GRADES

When appropriate, students at Buck Mountain Central School will have the opportunity to resubmit assignments in order to upgrade their mark and spend more time addressing particular learning outcomes they may be struggling with. While the decision regarding which assignments students will be permitted to resubmit lies with the classroom teacher, the following general criteria must be met in order for an assignment to be considered for resubmission:

- The assignment was submitted on or before the deadline.
- The teacher is informed within two school days of the mark being released for an assignment, if a student wishes to upgrade and resubmit it.
- The student has a clear plan of how they can improve the submission.



*Buck Mountain Central School teachers are empowered by [Alberta's Teaching Quality Standard](#) (2023) to apply “student assessment and evaluation practices that support the use of reasoned judgment about the evidence used to determine and report the level of student learning” (p. 4). As teachers use ‘reasoned judgment’ to ‘triangulate’ learning evidence and provide the most accurate final grade possible, students should be aware teachers are considering observations, conversations and submitted products over a designated time period when assigning that grade. That means all interactions and submissions are important to improving your grade throughout a course, whether or not specific activities are ‘worth marks,’ or categorized as ‘formative’ or ‘summative.’*





## LEARNING SUPPORT

### READ & WRITE FOR GOOGLE CHROME

All students have access to '[Read & Write for Google Chrome](#),' when logged into their Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools' Google account. This inclusive education tool is beneficial to all learners. It includes study tools, such as highlighters, notetaking functions, a dictionary and webpage simplifier all built into it, which are accessible while surfing the web or working on a Google Document or Form.

***Two of the most significant functions this extension offers are its text-to-speech and speech-to-text technology that can support struggling readers or writers in achieving academic success.***

**[CLICK HERE](#) to access a 'Read & Write for Google Chrome' quick reference guide.**



## **INCLUSION COACH - Linda Kwirant**

The inclusion coach facilitates the development of Individual Program Plans for students in the school, works with classroom teachers to ensure understanding around the individual learning needs of students, and works with students who require additional assistance to experience success. Currently our inclusion coach also instructs classes half the time and contributes to Collaborative Response meetings.

## **SUCCESS COACH - Judy Miller**

The success coach provides academic and career counselling to students, supports their transition out of high school and helps them access off-campus education, including dual credit, green certificate, work experience, and apprenticeship programs. This coach also currently instructs classes half the time.

## **FAMILY SCHOOL LIAISON WORKER - Kandice Wynia**

The family school liaison worker provides support and counselling to students attending Buck Mountain Central School. One-on-one counselling, support groups, implementation of programs, and contributing expertise to Collaborative Response meetings are ways this resource supports our school.

## **INDIGENOUS SUPPORT WORKER - Wayne Caron**

The Indigenous support worker's concern is for the well being of Indigenous students - mental, physical, spiritual and emotional. As such, they will be involved in providing supports for students that include attendance, transitions, retention in school, participation in school life and identity as an Indigenous person, as well as contributing expertise to professional learning initiatives and Collaborative Response meetings.

## **WELLNESS COACH - Peyton Schneider**

The wellness coach is scheduled to bring health and wellness initiatives to Buck Mountain Central School approximately twelve times throughout the year via whole school activities, targeted groups, educational presentations and more.

## **LEARNING COMMONS**

One way Buck Mountain Central School increase learning options for students, offers course extensions, engages in flexible scheduling, and meets the graduation and post-secondary needs of particular learners, is by offering an asynchronous learning block throughout the school day. In this classroom a number of students are each working at their own pace on self-directed courses, supported by a teacher.

## **HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION**

“Completing high school is an important opportunity for every student in Alberta to create a positive future for themselves and our society. Educators and community partners must take every action possible to ensure the success of our students” ([Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia](#)). Alberta Education diplomas and certificates certify the holder has successfully completed a prescribed program of instruction. Requirements can be found using the links below.

- Alberta High School Diploma ([English](#), [Francophone](#))
- Certificate of High School Achievement ([English](#), [Francophone](#))
- [Certificate of School Completion](#)

***CREDIT RECOVERY*** - High school students who fail a course may be eligible for a formal credit recovery option instead of redoing the entire course. They must have an 80% attendance rate, and course grade of higher than 40%. Students or families can contact the principal or success coach for more information on this process.

# DIPLOMA EXAMS

High school students who are enrolled in 30-level core courses are required to write a diploma exam that is weighted at 30% of a student's final mark for that course. The other 70% comes from their coursework. Both a 30-level English Language Arts and Social Studies course is required to earn a high school diploma, while 30-level Science and Math courses may be requirements for specific post-secondary programs.

- Students and parents or guardians can access Alberta Education's '[Writing diploma exams](#)' website for more information, including diploma exam schedules, exam guides for students, exemplars, examples of students' writing, practice questions and other support documents.

**[CLICK HERE](#) to access practice tests that will help students prepare for Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) and Diploma Exams.**





# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & ENRICHMENT





# CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Student achievement is celebrated in various ways at Buck Mountain Central School:

- **Student Awards Night** - Annually, a student awards night recognizes academic, citizenship and athletic achievements.
- **Mustang of the Month** - Each month staff members submit nominations for 'Mustang of the Month.' These students fully embody the school's three Rs motto 'Respect, Responsibilities, Results,' and go above and beyond to positively contribute to the welcoming, safe, caring, and respectful learning environment we hope to establish and maintain at Buck Mountain Central School. All nominations are submitted into a monthly draw for an exclusive prize pack, featuring limited edition school spirit wear.



- **Attendance** - Students with perfect attendance records will be celebrated, and their names will also be submitted into a monthly draw to win exclusive Buck Mountain Central School swag.

# SCHOOL SPORTS

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A number of dedicated staff members and volunteers, supported by our athletic director, Tim Stewart, provide Buck Mountain Central School students with opportunities to participate in a number of organized sports and extracurricular physical education initiatives. This year, our school is gearing up to offer students opportunities to participate on competitive school teams for volleyball, basketball, badminton, ultimate frisbee, cross-country running (Rod Drebert Cross Country Run & Spartan Tough XC Race), slo-pitch, archery and Esports.

Students who tryout and commit to playing on a school team are expected to make all practices and games. If they are unable to make a practice or game, they must inform their coach at least one day in advance. Good sportsmanship and behaviour is also required at all times when representing our school. Athletes who violate this expectation and misrepresent our school values are subject to being removed from the team and facing appropriate disciplinary measures.

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## ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE ON A SCHOOL TEAM

- Students must maintain passing grades, or if they are failing one course they must have approval from that teacher and a plan in place to get caught up. Those failing two or more courses are subject to removal from the team until their grades have improved to passing.
  - Students must maintain good attendance and not be habitually late for class. They are not permitted to practice or play on days they are marked absent from one or more courses.
  - Athletic fees must be paid in full before students are eligible to compete.
  - Students must demonstrate responsible and respectful behaviour at school. Suspensions and other disciplinary issues may result in a student losing their eligibility to compete on a school team.
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## ESPORTS

Organized by Buck Mountain Central School teacher, Julian Moore, competitive Esports opportunities are available to students. The requirements listed for 'Eligibility to Compete On a School Team' applies to Esports as well. This year our school is exploring the formation of a team to compete in Rocket League, Smash and/or Valorant.

## RECREATIONAL EVENTS

A number of recreational athletic events are planned throughout the school year, for those looking to enrich their physical education knowledge in non-competitive spaces. This year, our dedicated staff will organize lunchtime intramurals, a cross-country ski club and downhill ski/snowboard trip. In addition, students are often invited to participate in charity and community events throughout the school year, like the Terry Fox Run and Ben Stelter Charity Hockey Games.

## EQUINE EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

A limited number of junior high students are selected each year by our Family School Liaison Worker and School Support Team to participate in the [Equine Empowerment Program](#). This program 'partners children and horses to develop social skills and emotional regulation.' Kandice Wynia can be contacted for more information.

In addition to a leadership class offered to high school students for credits, there are various ways our students can pursue leadership development, represent and advocate for school and community.

**Student Council** - Student council meets at lunchtimes throughout the year with staff volunteers Randi Tyler and Judy Miller. These students work to plan school activities, spirit days, dances and more for Buck Mountain Central School. They can also invite administrators to their meetings, as needed, to advocate for student issues or make requests.

**Nikaniwin** - Nikaniwin is a Cree word for leadership. It is also the name of a program offered to any student at Buck Mountain Central School who may benefit from an alternative approach to learning. The program seeks to empower students to find direction and purpose by reconnecting them with the land, community, school and themselves. Students who enroll can expect one half-day meeting per week, beginning in October, that will include mentoring, a focus on leadership development, Indigenous teachings, student-led projects and more. Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members will be invited in to connect with our Nikaniwin students.

**Skills Canada Alberta** - [Skills Canada Alberta](#) is a provincial non-profit organization that promotes careers in skilled trades and technologies to Alberta youth. Buck Mountain Central School seeks to identify students with strengths in the culinary arts, baking, construction and other skills areas to compete in a regional competition each school year, which is a qualifier for provincials in the Spring. "Students vie to win the honour of being crowned best in province in their chosen discipline, and for the opportunity to join Team Alberta for the Skills Canada National Competition." Students should see vice principal Patrick Granger for more information.

# ADDITIONAL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

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## TRAVEL CLUB

All high school students have the opportunity to participate in 'Travel Club.' Through this club, past students have travelled alongside staff to various European countries, Costa Rica, Hawaii and New York. Students who wish to participate in the school trip must pay for all associated costs, though some fundraising initiatives will be taken up by the group between now and their 2027 departure. Currently, 'Travel Club' is being organized by Buck Mountain Central School teachers Eric Wolney and Bailey Harden. Interested students can contact them for more information and to find out when the next meeting is.

## BMC TEAMS

To strengthen the sense of belonging all students feel at Buck Mountain Central School, while also tapping into students' critical thinking skills, and having a little fun, the entire school meets each Friday morning to join their BMC Teams. These teams are comprised of students from all grades, and staff members, who compete or collaborate on weekly challenges planned at our school's 'Collaborative Planning Meetings.'

## COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS & AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Buck Mountain Central School loves to see students get involved in the community. That is why we offer 'Community Volunteerism' credits to high school students and take part in many awareness campaigns each year. Some examples of fundraisers or awareness campaigns we promote at school, which allows students to actively contribute to their community, include [Orange Shirt Day](#), Remembrance Day (poppies), [Hats On! for Mental Health](#), [Moose Hide Campaign](#), [Pink Shirt Day](#), Hot Chocolate With A Cause, Wake-A-Thon and [Red Dress Day](#).





**Buck Mountain Central School believes that all individuals are entitled to a safe and healthy learning and work environment. Guided by Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools' 'Administrative Procedure 102 - Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, Safe Learning & Working Environments' and 'Administrative Procedure 173 - Health & Safety,' the well-being of students, employees, contract workers and visitors is a key consideration for all school decisions and initiatives.**



**HEALTH & SAFETY**

## NUTRITION

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Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools recognize that healthy eating is critical to students' growth, development and learning. That is why FREE breakfast and lunch options are available to all Buck Mountain Central School students daily. Breakfast choices are available in the Home-Ec room (123) between 8:30am - 8:43am each morning, with the lunch cart hitting the galleria between 11:25am - 12:10pm. Food options are guided by the school division's [Administrative Procedure 176](#).

## CANTEEN

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Additional foods options are available for students to purchase from the canteen, located in the galleria, between 11:30am-12:00pm daily.

## SCHOOL EMERGENCY PROGRAM

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**[CLICK HERE TO REVIEW WETASKIWIN  
REGIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS' 'SCHOOL  
EMERGENCY PROGRAM: A GUIDE FOR  
PARENTS AND GUARDIANS'](#)**

# BUILDING SAFETY & SECURITY

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## CLOSED CAMPUS

Buck Mountain Central School is a closed campus and all doors are locked during the school day. Visitors will need to make an appointment and ring the door bell to gain access.

Students in grades 7-9 are expected to stay within the boundaries of the school during the school day, including lunch time and breaks. Students in grades 10-12 may leave campus during lunch. Any student arriving to class late, or leaving early, must check in at the office.

## SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY

In accordance with Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools' 'Administrative Procedure 357 - Surveillance Technology,' "surveillance technology shall be used to promote the order, safety, and security of students, staff, and property." Cameras are located in hallways, entrances, and outside Buck Mountain Central School to help keep students and staff safe. Access to recordings is strictly controlled, respecting individual rights to privacy as deemed reasonable under the circumstances."

## STUDENT SEARCHES

Students at Buck Mountain Central School are expected to cooperate with investigations by administration. When contemplating and conducting a reasonable search of student property, as guided by Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools' 'Administrative Procedure 354 - Student Searches,' administration will balance a student's reduced expectation of privacy in relation to school matters, with the need to provide a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment. If a search is required, it will respect human rights and child welfare. Also, a 'Student Search Report' (Form 354-3) must be completed.





## USE OF TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, CANNABIS AND ILLICIT DRUGS

Students under the influence of alcohol, cannabis (other than cannabis prescribed by a physician for medicinal purposes, as per ['Administrative Procedure 175 - Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, Cannabis and Illicit Drugs,'](#) and only in accordance with such prescription) and/or illicit drugs, including inappropriate use of prescription and non-prescription medication, are prohibited from being on school property, participating in authorized student activities or being on transportation provided by division employees or contractors. They must be escorted from the premises as soon as possible, in the custody of a parent or guardian. Any students smoking, drinking or in possession of smoking devices or illicit drugs on school property will be suspended out of school. Multiple violations could result in increased disciplinary measures, up to and including expulsion or involvement of authorities.

Support and resources are available through Buck Mountain Central School to assist students who are experiencing substance abuse issues. [Alberta Health Services' Addiction & Mental Health Helpline](#) at 1-866-332-2322, [Kid's Help Phone](#), and [Alberta Health Services' Indigenous Support Line](#) at 1-844-944-4744 are also options for those seeking help.

# HELPLINES & WELLNESS RESOURCES

CLICK ON ANY OF THE LINKS BELOW TO LEARN MORE

## Anonymous Hotlines (Toll-Free)

- [Mental Health Helpline](#) 1-877-303-2642
- Indigenous '[Hope For Wellness](#)' Hotline 1-855-242-3310
- [Addiction & Mental Health Helpline](#) 1-866-332-2322
- [Al-Anon/Alateen](#) 1-888-425-2666
- [Kids Help Phone](#) (Text 'CONNECT' to 686868) 1-800-668-6868
- [Suicide Crisis Helpline](#) Text or Call 988
- [MMIWG Crisis Line](#) 1-844-413-6649
- [Indian Residential School Crisis Line](#) 1-866-925-4419
- [Indigenous Support Line](#) 1-844-944-4744

## Online Counselling

- [CMHA Edmonton](#) (Online Chat Available)
- [Kids Help Phone](#) (Online Counsellor Available from 5pm-10pm)
- [Noojimo Health](#) (All Indigenous Virtual Mental Wellness Clinic)
- [Kickstand](#) (Virtual Mental Health Support, Ages 11-25)

## Additional Resources

- [Breton Food Bank](#) (Faith Covenant Church) 780-696-3669
- [Drayton Valley Food Bank](#) 780-514-3777
- [Home Support Services \(FCSS\)](#) 780-352-3321
- [Maskwacis Mobile Mental Health](#) 780-362-2150
- [Anam Rural Youth](#) (Mental Health Support, Ages 13-25)
- [Addressing Grief: Brief Facts & Tips](#)
- [When Grief/Loss Hits Close to Home: Tips for Caregivers](#)