



# Parent & Student Handbook

September 2022

## **Parent and Student Handbook 2022-2023**

District Office  
640 - 14th Avenue SE  
Calgary, Alberta T2G 1E8  
(403) 532-3020  
[www.caaschool.com](http://www.caaschool.com)

**Superintendent**  
Mr. Dale Erickson

**Principal/Deputy Superintendent**  
Ms. Michelle Stonehouse

**Community Arts Coordinator**  
Cheralyn Doell

**Registrar**  
Cathy Braun

**Communications**  
Cathy Braun/ Kevin Loftus

### **Leadership Team**

Mrs. Kimberly Hoey - Knob Hill Principal  
Ms. Alyson Moore - Rosscarrock Assistant Principal  
Ms. Juleta Severson-Baker - Education Centre Assistant Principal

### **School Hours**

Main Office Knob Hill – 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.  
Rosscarrock Main Office - 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.  
Main Office Education Centre – 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### **Knob Hill Elementary School Campus**

2036 - 20 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2T 0M2  
(403) 229-3010  
Kindergarten Morning – 8:33 a.m. to 11:18 a.m.  
Kindergarten Afternoon – 12:14 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Year 1 to 3 – 8:33 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Lunch: 12:00 p.m. to 12:55 p.m.

#### **Rosscarrock Middle School Campus**

1406 - 40 Street SW, Calgary, AB T3C 1W7  
(403) 235-1984  
Year 4 to 7– 8:40 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.  
Lunch: 12:00 p.m. to 12:40 p.m.

#### **Calgary Arts Academy Education Centre Campus**

640 - 14 Avenue SE, Calgary, AB T2G 1E8  
(403) 532-3020  
Education Centre Year 8 to 9– 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Education Centre Year 10 to 11– 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Lunch: 12:15 p.m. to 12:55 p.m.

### **Calgary Arts Academy School Calendar**

The complete calendar for the current school year may be viewed on the school website at [www.caaschool.com](http://www.caaschool.com).

## What is a Public Charter School?

Public charter schools are autonomous public schools of choice that provide the Alberta curriculum, and each has a unique focus or delivery method to improve student learning. Currently, Alberta is the only province in Canada that has charter schools. Following approval of a charter school application, the Minister of Education grants a Charter. After demonstrating success according to the terms of the charter, a renewal of the school's charter may be granted by the Minister.

### Charter schools:

- Are attended by choice
- Charge no tuition
- Have no religious affiliation
- Employ certified teachers
- Are locally governed; each has its own elected school board
- Encourage parental involvement
- Have a unique focus or delivery method
- Must teach mandated provincial curriculum
- Must administer Provincial Achievement Tests and any other tests the Minister prescribes
- Are not part of the large public boards in urban areas.

### Resources

Charter Schools Handbook

[http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/educationssystem/charter\\_hndbk.pdf](http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/educationssystem/charter_hndbk.pdf)

The Alberta Association of Public Charter Schools

<http://www.taapcs.ca/>

## **Calgary Arts Academy Vision, Mission and Purpose**

### **Vision**

“Children and community that value arts and learning...”

Calgary Arts Academy is an innovative and progressive school that engages children through Arts Immersion to become confident learners and spirited citizens.

### **Mission**

Our mission is to provide a collaborative, democratic learning community, empowering each individual to become self-directed, lifelong learners who value community-focused and citizen-based action, facilitated through effective communication, collaboration, critical and creative thinking.

### **Purpose**

Our purpose is to promote the arts, foster academic excellence, practical skill building and spirited citizenship.

## **Registration and Admissions Procedure**

### **Registration**

- Complete a registration form and submit to the office.
- The date of submission will be noted on the registration form.
- Canadian birth certificate or citizenship document, most recent report card and related documents (such as IPPs) are required at this time.
- Children are required to be at grade level academically.  
(It will be at the discretion of the administration as to whether a child who is not at grade level will be admitted. In order for this to occur, it must be determined that the child can benefit from the curriculum and resources available at CAA.)

### **Orientation Meeting at the School**

- All students and parents are required to attend a presentation at the school that will outline the program offered at CAA.
- A meeting will be conducted by school administration and staff to ensure parents and students have a clear understanding of the vision, mission, purpose and expectations surrounding student learning and parental involvement.

### **Student Audition (Years 4 and above only)**

- Students must demonstrate an interest in one of the arts.
- The audition is meant to reveal student willingness to perform and commitment to the school, rather than their proficiency level.

### **Acceptance**

- Congratulations!

### **Expectations**

#### **Parents are expected to:**

- volunteer a minimum of 10 hours per school year per family – volunteer time is to be recorded using current procedures,
- attend Professional Development opportunities, and
- communicate positively with all stakeholders.

#### **Students are expected to:**

- complete all learning contracts successfully,
- participate in all opportunities positively,
- attend all school performances for their age group, and
- demonstrate the spirit of the Circle of Courage.

## Comprehensive Fees Schedule

### Schedule of Fees 2022 – 2023

#### Resource Fees (per year)

Kindergarten	\$270.00
Year 1 - 3	\$450.00
Year 4 - 6	\$525.00
Year 7 - 9	\$550.00
Year 10 -12	\$750.00
Grad Fee Year 9 and 12	\$ 65.00

Payments made using Family Zone

Resource fees include school supplies, art supplies, field trips, guest speakers, the yearly Jubilee t-shirt and new this year, an expanded technology program. Payment of Kindergarten resource fees are due March 15, 2022. Payment of 50% of Year 1 to 12 resource fees is due March 15, 2022, with the balance due April 30, 2022.

#### Technology Update

We are pleased to provide the following:

1. Year 4 – 6 will be assigned a personal iPad to be used at school. At the end of Year 6, students have the opportunity to purchase their personal iPad for \$200.00
2. Year 7 – 9 will be assigned a personal iPad they are able to take home to complete schoolwork. At the end of Year 9, students have the opportunity to purchase their personal iPad for \$200.00
3. Year 10 – 12 will be assigned a laptop they can take home to complete schoolwork. At the end of Year 12, students have the opportunity to purchase their personal laptop for \$500.00.
4. School fees include 3-year Apple Care Insurance. This protects CAA and the user.

#### Bus Fees

Both Ways	\$825.00	¼ due by March 15	¼ due by April 30
		¼ due by June 1	¼ due by September 1
One Way	\$575.00	½ due by March 15	½ due by April 30

Payments made using Family Zone

The transportation agreement must be completed in Family Zone

## **Attendance and Lates**

All school-aged children in Alberta are mandated to attend school. Together, we are charged with the Alberta Education mandate to ensure all students meet with academic and social success at Calgary Arts Academy. Regular attendance and being on time are critical ways to begin to meet this challenge.

Regular school attendance and punctuality is expected from all. Please inform the school by note or telephone if your child will be absent or late. This avoids unnecessary calls home.

## **Sign In/Out Procedure**

Parents must sign their child out at the office if the student is leaving during the school day. Students must sign themselves back in upon their return that day. Parents are asked to wait for their children in the foyer by the office after signing out.

## **Dressing for the weather**

Please ensure your child is suitably dressed for all weather conditions.

## **Extra-curricular Activities**

Extra-curricular activities will be provided during the noon hour and after school.

## **Traffic and Parking Lot**

Knob Hill Campus:

Please do not use the staff parking lots to drop off and pick up students. Parking in alleys, in front of neighbours' driveways and otherwise impeding traffic is discouraged. Our community is asked to be respectful of our neighbours. We ask that parents ensure students use the crosswalk at the front of the school. Safety of students is our primary concern at all times.

Rosscarrock Campus:

Please do not use the staff parking lots to drop off and pick up students. Parking in front of neighbours' driveways and otherwise impeding traffic is discouraged. Our community is asked to be respectful of our neighbours. Please do not pick-up, drop-off or park on 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, as this is our bus lane.

Education Centre Campus:

Please do not use the staff parking lots to drop off and pick up students. We ask that parents drive on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, on the South Side of the building, turn around at the turnabout and drop students directly in front of the Education Centre in the designated drop off zones. Please do not park in the roundabout because it interrupts the flow of traffic.

## **Playground Supervision**

Knob Hill and Rosscarrock Campuses:

For safety reasons, please ensure your child arrives no sooner than 15 minutes before the beginning of the day. Supervision is provided 15 minutes before and after school. Please ensure your prompt arrival to meet your child when the bell rings. Please inform the office if you are running late. Should you require longer supervision before or after school, please contact Student Care.

Education Centre:

Outside supervision is provided in the morning for 15 minutes before school. There is no supervision after school. Please inform the office if you are running late.

## **Indoor Shoes**

All students are required to have one pair of indoor shoes. Students are required to change their shoes when they enter the building. Runners with non-marking soles are perfect, as they can be used for physical education activities indoors and do not scuff tile floors. Also, students need to have shoes on when fire drills are conducted.

## **Dress Code**

We expect students to maintain acceptable dress and grooming practices to encourage a healthy atmosphere that promotes learning for all students. At Calgary Art Academy, we believe dressing for a variety of situations shows that a student has a high degree of self-respect and respect for others.

Unacceptable dress includes:

- clothing with inappropriate printing and messages.

Students who come improperly dressed will be asked to change.

## **Crisis Management Procedures**

Crisis Management Procedures provide a plan of action to maximize the safety and security of all Calgary Arts Academy students and staff in cases of emergency.

### **Fire Drills**

Calgary Arts Academy regularly participates in fire drill procedures so that all students and teachers practice orderly evacuation from the school. In order to ensure safety and security of students, there will be six fire drills per year. It is extremely important that the students wear indoor shoes when fire drills happen, especially during the cooler months.

In an emergency situation when Calgary Arts Academy needs to be evacuated, the designated evacuation site for students will be:

**Knob Hill** will relocate to the Richmond Road Diagnostic Centre.



**Rosscarrock** will relocate to Westbrook Mall.

**The Education Centre** will relocate to TransAlta Performing Arts Studios.

Additionally, at least three lockdown drills are conducted annually. Staff are well prepared to assist students in lockdown drills and the school enlists the help of the Calgary Police Service in ensuring that our procedures and responses are adequate.

Parents will be notified of an emergency via phone or email. **DO NOT** phone the school or the evacuation sites. Lines need to be kept clear for Emergency Services Communications and for contacting parents. In order to contact you as quickly as possible in an emergency, **PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL CONTACT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO THE OFFICE AND IS CURRENT.**

Check our website for information, and keep your phone lines clear to await instructions. Students will remain under staff supervision until a parent or other authorized person can pick them up.

## **Medical**

Parents or guardians are responsible for notifying the school of their child's health needs and are expected to provide timely and accurate information about health concerns that could affect their child or students and staff at the school. Health and medical concerns are to be reported annually on the appropriate forms.

From time to time, students become ill at school. We do not have a school nurse on site and it is an expectation that parents will assist promptly in the event of student illness.

## **Administration of Medicine**

School personnel require authorization from parents to dispense medicine. All medicine will be secured.

## **Head Lice**

Cases of head-lice occur frequently in schools. When Calgary Arts Academy is notified of a student with lice, the class is informed and information about how to check for and treat lice is sent home. Calgary Arts Academy follows all protocols required by AHS and student privacy is upheld.

## **Calgary Arts Academy School Culture**

### **Guiding Assumptions and Expectations**

We believe that all students have the right to:

- a safe and secure environment.
- be treated in a caring manner.
- learn and work in a positive environment.
- be taught to use problem solving skills effectively.

We believe all people have the responsibility to:

- work and play safely.
- treat people, property, and the environment in a respectful and caring manner.
- contribute to a positive learning community.
- apply problem solving skills to resolve conflicts appropriately.

We believe that:

- a democratic community provides choices that are clear.
- consequences for misbehaviour must be fair, logical and encourage self-discipline.
- a supportive, caring environment fosters positive outcomes such as risk-taking, self-responsibility, personal development, a feeling of school community and a sense of accomplishment.
- learning is a continuous process, which is personal and collaborative.
- children are able to assume ownership for their learning when given voice, choice and support.
- learning is enhanced through clear curriculum delivery and active involvement, which is meaningful and relevant.
- learning is the shared responsibility of all contributors: the child, the family, the school, and the community.

All staff members have been trained to create a democratic school and classroom environment where choices are clear, discipline is logical and self-discipline is encouraged.

A democratic approach to behaviour expectations and discipline:

- establishes a climate of equality and mutual respect.
- encourages students to be the best they can be in all aspects of their lives.
- offers students a role in decision making.
- offers consistent, logical, and understandable guidelines for behaviour.

**Discipline** is defined as, “instruction and practice designed to teach proper conduct or action.”

**Misbehaviour** is defined as, “any conduct which interferes with learning, threatens or is injurious to people or property.”

Students are given the opportunity to resolve conflict using the CAA Problem Solving Model.

### **Problem Solving Model**

1. Discuss the incident.
2. Identify the problem.
3. Identify their role/responsibility in the incident.
4. Choose an appropriate resolution.
5. Choose alternative behaviour for the future.

### **Logical consequences:**

1. Writing an explanation of misbehaviour.
2. Community service (sorting lost and found items.)
3. Staying with an outside supervisor over the recess period.
4. Removal from situation.
5. Time out.
6. Behaviour contract.

When logical consequences occur for misbehaviour:

Step 1 – Staff and students initiate problem solving using the CAA model.

Step 2 – If the problem is not resolved or persists, parents are notified.

Step 3 – Behaviour contract is put in place.

For more serious behaviour difficulties, it may be necessary to move to suspend the student. Suspensions will usually only occur when the incident has compromised the safety and security of others.

- Suspension (1 to 5 days, either in school or out of school.)
- If behaviour persists suspension will become progressively longer.
- Expulsion of a student would occur in consultation with the Charter Board and Superintendent.

### **Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environment Policy**

Calgary Arts Academy Society's Board of Directors ensures that all students, families and staff have a welcoming, caring, respectful, safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. We affirm the right as provided for in the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms of each staff employed by the Board and each student in the schools operated by the board. Families, staff and students of Calgary Arts Academy will not be discriminated against as provided for in the Alberta Human Rights Act or the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. All members of the school community have the right to learn and work in an environment free from discrimination, prejudice and harassment.

#### *Administrative Procedures:*

Calgary Arts Academy Society's Board of Directors respects and supports any student request to lead an activity intended to promote a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging in accordance with section 16.1 of the School Act.

1. If one or more students attending a school operated by CAA Society Board request a staff member employed by the board for support to establish a voluntary student organization, or to lead an activity intended to promote a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging, the Principal shall immediately grant permission for the establishment of the student organization or the holding of the activity at the school subject to #3, within a reasonable time from the date that the principal receives the request, designate a staff member to serve as the staff liaison to facilitate the establishment, and the ongoing operation, of the student organization or to assist in organizing the activity.

2. The students may select a respectful and inclusive name for the organization or activity, including the name “gay-straight alliance” or “queer-straight alliance”, after consulting with the Principal. For greater certainty, the Principal shall not prohibit or discourage students from choosing a name that includes “gay-straight alliance” or “queer-straight alliance”.
3. The Principal shall immediately inform the Board and the Minister if no staff member is available to serve as a staff liaison and if so informed, the Minister shall appoint a responsible adult to work with the requesting students in organizing the activity or to facilitate the establishment, and the ongoing operation, of the student organization at the school.
4. The Principal is responsible for ensuring that notification, if any, respecting a voluntary student organization or an activity is limited to the fact of the establishment of the organization or the holding of the activity, and is otherwise consistent with the usual practices relating to notification of other student organizations and activities.
5. The Principal provides supports that respond to a student’s individual needs.
6. The Principal is responsible for the respect of an individual’s right to self-identification and privacy.
7. The Principal ensures the maintenance records in a way that respects privacy and confidentiality bound by the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
8. The Principal ensures dress codes respect an individual’s gender identity and gender expression.
9. The Principal ensures minimization of gender-segregated activities.
10. The Principal enables students with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions to have full, safe and equitable participation in curricular and extra-curricular activities.
11. The Principal provides safe access to washroom and change-room facilities.
12. The Principal provides professional learning opportunities that build the capacity of staff to understand and support diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.
13. The Principal uses a comprehensive whole-school approach to promote healthy relationships and prevent and respond to bullying behaviour.
14. The Principal ensures students have the understanding, skills and opportunities to contribute to welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and nurture a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self.
15. The Principal ensures all families are welcomed and supported as valued members of the school community and are protected from discrimination based on their sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.
16. The Principal ensures that Society staff members have work environments where they are protected from discrimination based on their sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.

## **Student Code of Conduct**

Calgary Arts Academy is committed to establish and maintain a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment for its students and a balance between individual and collective rights, freedoms and responsibilities in the school community.

We are committed to establish and publish expectations for student behaviour while at school, at a school-related activity or while engaging in an activity that may have an impact on others in the school.

We believe that parents, as partners, are encouraged to play a vital role in instilling and reinforcing the skills necessary for appropriate conduct.

Students are expected to be responsible and to conduct themselves in a manner which respects the rights and property of others.

Two CAA pillars, the ‘Circle of Courage’ and ‘Democratic Discipline’ form the basis of appropriate student behaviour.

### Procedures

1. Student Code of Conduct is to be consistent with the School Act and Charter Board policy and reflect community values.
2. Students shall conduct themselves so as to reasonably comply with the following Student Code of Conduct established pursuant to section 12 of the School Act:
  - 2.1 respect yourself and the rights of others in the school;
  - 2.2 ensure your conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment in the school that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging in others in the school;
  - 2.3 refrain from, report and refuse to tolerate bullying, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, discrimination or violence, even if it happens outside of the school or school hours or happens electronically;
  - 2.4 inform an adult you trust in a timely manner of incidents of bullying, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, violence or other safety concerns in the school;
  - 2.5 act in ways that honours and appropriately represents you and your school;
  - 2.6 attend school regularly and punctually;
  - 2.7 be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue your education;
  - 2.8 know and comply with the expectations of your school;
  - 2.9 cooperate with all staff;
  - 2.10 be accountable for your behaviour to fellow students, teachers, and other school staff; and
  - 2.11 contribute positively to your school and community.
3. Students are expected to be respectful, responsible, trustworthy, fair, caring and good citizens.
4. The following behaviours or offenses towards self, peers, staff, volunteers, visitors or property will not be tolerated whether or not the behaviour occurs in the school building during the school day or by electronic means.
  - 4.1 behaviours that interfere with the learning of others or the school environment or that create unsafe conditions;
  - 4.2 acts of bullying, discrimination, intimidation, harassment, or violence;
  - 4.3 retribution against any person in the school who has intervened to prevent or report bullying or any other incident or safety concern;
  - 4.4 illegal activity such as: possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances; possession or use of weapons; theft or damage to property;
  - 4.5 creating a disturbance;
  - 4.6 being disobedient or defiant;
  - 4.7 using profane, vulgar or inappropriate language; or
  - 4.8 engaging in any criminal activity.
5. The school will ensure that reasonable learning opportunities are provided for students in order to foster the development of responsible and respectful conduct.
6. The *School Act (section 12)* and this Student Code of Conduct shall apply:
  - 6.1 to any school or school-sponsored activity whether on or off-campus;
  - 6.2 to any bus transportation of students, including designated drop-off or pick-up areas; and

6.3 during transportation by volunteer drivers to school-sponsored off-campus activities.

## Consequences for Unacceptable Behaviour

Calgary Arts Academy believes that:

7. Consequences for unacceptable behaviour will take into account:
  - 7.1 that a “zero” tolerance approach to behaviour with a “one size fits all” approach is inconsistent with the School Act and is not in the best interest of students.
  - 7.2 the specific circumstances of the situation;
  - 7.3 the age, maturity and individual circumstances of the student; and
  - 7.4 any special needs that the student has such as physical, behaviour, communication, mental health, or trauma-related conditions.
8. Supports for those students who engage in unacceptable behaviour and for those impacted by inappropriate behavior may include:
  - 8.1 mentoring;
  - 8.2 restorative discipline;
  - 8.3 supportive positive behaviours;
  - 8.4 regular check-ins with teachers or school counsellors;
  - 8.5 external counselling; and
  - 8.6 parental support for remediation.

Any violations of this Student Code of Conduct will be addressed promptly and in accordance with Calgary Arts Academy Board policy and administrative procedures.

## Problem Solving Protocol for Calgary Arts Academy

At Calgary Arts Academy, parents/guardians are partners ensuring student success. Calgary Arts Academy prides itself in welcoming parent participation and involvement. Clear, transparent communication is key in creating and fostering strong, positive relationships between the school and the home. The purpose of this document is to guide, manage, and improve school-home communication by offering a standard format, structure, and sequence for regular, ongoing communication.

Should a concern arise we request the following protocol:

- Step 1. Student:** A student should first be encouraged go to the teacher with their questions, concerns, or comments.
- Step 2. Teacher:** Should the question or concern not be resolved, parents should go to the teacher with their questions, concerns, or comments. This is because the teacher is the closest to the question or concern and is most able to resolve it quickly and effectively. The teacher will follow up with the parent on the resolution of questions, concerns, or comments.
- Step 3. Administration and Principal:** After the teacher has been given the opportunity to resolve the concern or issue, and the situation has not yet improved, the parent may choose to contact administration or the Principal. Administration or the Principal may be able to resolve the issue and follow up on resolution or will then offer to set up a meeting with the concerned parties.
- Step 4. Superintendent:** After campus administration has been given the opportunity to resolve the concern or issue, and the situation has not yet improved, parents may contact the Superintendent. Communication with the teacher, campus administration and Principal must happen **prior** to Superintendent intervention.

It is expected that all communication will be respectful. Calgary Arts Academy strives to maintain safe learning and working environments. Everyone has the right to be treated with respect, whether it's in a face-to-face meeting, in a telephone conversation, or through email.

### **Response Time Frames**

Every effort will be made to respond in a timely manner, whether the response is required from the home to the school or school to the home. When a staff member uses a communication channel that lends itself well to quick communication, such as email, that doesn't mean they can always respond just as quickly as that format allows. While there is no guarantee on the specific time frame for a response, generally families can expect a response within two (2) business days.

## **Regular Communication between the School and Home**

### **Phone, Fax and Email**

There are several avenues for reaching staff at the school. The main number at Knob Hill Elementary office is (403) 229-3010. The Rosscarrock Middle School office number is (403) 235-1984. The Education Centre Campus office is (403) 532-3020. The office staff can take messages or forward you directly to a teacher's voice mail. All teachers have an email address and invite you to correspond with them via email at any time.

### **Contacting Students**

In order to contact your child at school, please call the office and request that a message be relayed to the student. Students are not permitted to use cell phones during instructional hours and may only retrieve voice and text messages outside of class time.

### **Calgary Arts Academy Newsletter**

The school publishes a monthly digital newsletter called *The Art of Learning*. In it you will find highlights of the prior month's activities at Calgary Arts Academy and notices for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. A PDF version of *The Art of Learning* is posted on the website each month and is a great window into school life.

### **School Website**

Many valuable resources are available on the school website. At [www.caaschool.com](http://www.caaschool.com), you will find an easy to use resource for all aspects of school life, including virtually all of the supporting documentation that underlies the publication of this handbook. You can also get current information on bus scheduling and/or delays and upcoming events.

### **Homework Policy**

All students are expected to participate in a daily reading / literacy program. Your child's facilitator will provide more information for you. Parents are expected to support homework completion by checking student's agenda and online portfolio. Parents are also expected to participate in the creation and/or completion of student learning contracts. This opportunity allows parents to be part of learning and teaching throughout the year.

## **Student Assessment**

Calgary Arts Academy uses a three-point marking system:

- Mastery: Exceeding Grade Level Expectations

- Independent: Independently Meets Expectations
- Beginning: Needs Support to Meet Expectations

In addition to the formal reporting processes, there is a scheduled Meet the Team night early in the year (typically during the first couple of weeks of the school year) where parents can speak with the team about the program, classroom expectations, learning contracts, and more. Scheduled parent-teacher interviews take place in the middle of the first trimester, prior to the fall break in October. Student-led conferences occur at the end of the second trimester in March. If there are concerns that need to be addressed or recognition that is well deserved, teachers will contact parents in a timely fashion to address these issues. Similarly, parents are encouraged to contact their child's teachers throughout the year through email, phone or by appointment to deal with any questions or concerns that they may have regarding their child.

Parent-teacher interviews, student-led conferences and on-going communication between parents and teachers are integral components of the reporting process and student achievement at Calgary Arts Academy.

## Personal Technology Agreement

As a school community, our aim is to foster positive and productive use of personally owned digital devices. As more and more students are bringing their personal technology devices (smartphones, iPods, iPads, etc.) to school, it is imperative to clearly identify a set of guidelines for their use.

- Students will demonstrate responsible digital citizenship both inside and outside of school. They will not use their devices to engage in cyber-bullying or harassment, the trafficking in illicit images or illegal activities.
- Students will ask permission from staff prior to using their devices in class unless otherwise stated by staff.
- During instructional hours, students will not move throughout the school building with headphones on or wearing 'earbuds' of any fashion unless given consent from staff.
- When using their devices in class, students will use them for the purpose instructed and not use these devices to engage with video games, texting, telephone calls or social-media during class time.
- Parents and guardians will call the school office in order to contact their children, and will avoid contacting students on their personal devices during instructional hours.

## Transportation

Transportation is provided by Southland Transportation Services. Pick-up points and drop-off points are determined according to student addresses. Parents are expected to arrive five minutes prior to the scheduled drop-off and pick-up scheduled times. Please refer to [www.caaschool.com](http://www.caaschool.com) for detailed bus route information.

**Buses will not operate when the Environment Canada website reports a temperature of -40°C or colder (including the wind-chill.)**

## Behaviour

Calgary Arts Academy has established the following expectations to ensure that a clean, safe and friendly environment is maintained for everyone riding the bus.

- The driver may assign specific seats to students.
- Students will not board the bus without the driver present. Once on board, they will remain seated on the bus until their stop.
- Students must conduct themselves in a quiet and courteous manner, showing consideration for the comfort and safety of others.



### **Delayed Service**

From time to time, there may be a delay in bus service due to winter conditions or mechanical problems. In preparation for delayed or cancelled service, parents are encouraged to develop a back-up plan. Suggestions include:

- Make arrangements to car pool. Get to know the other parents on your route, and have their phone numbers handy.
- Familiarize yourself with the other bus routes in your area. Choose a stop that is accessible to you. If you need assistance in identifying an alternative stop, please contact the Transportation Coordinator.

### **How to Address Parent Concerns and Questions Regarding Busing**

- The preferred method of communication with the Calgary Arts Academy Transportation Coordinator regarding busing is via e-mail to [transportation@caaschool.com](mailto:transportation@caaschool.com).
- Questions regarding routes, schedules, or stops are to be addressed in writing to the Calgary Arts Academy Transportation Coordinator with a copy given to Southland Transportation Ltd.
- Questions regarding driver behaviour are to be addressed directly to Southland Transportation.
- Parents are to contact the school regarding student discipline issues.

Parents wishing to approach a bus driver with their concerns should do so by giving the driver a note detailing their concern and a phone number where they can be reached. It is very difficult for the driver to properly address any issues with a bus full of students and a time schedule to keep.

### **Volunteers, Visitors and Parents**

It is an expectation that each family will volunteer 10 hours of time each school year. All volunteers, visitors and parents are requested to sign in at the office. This is essential to the safety and security of students. A sign-in binder is located in the school office or at the front desk. For more information, please visit the following link: <http://www.caaschool.com/for-parents/volunteering/>

### **Volunteer Code of Ethics**

- Volunteers must be discreet and confidential.
- Volunteers never discuss children, parents or staff outside of the school setting.
- Volunteers work positively and in collaboration with school staff.
- Volunteers follow the requests of the teacher.
- Volunteers refer discipline problems to the teacher

### **Security Clearance**

All staff, artists and volunteers working with children are required to obtain a security clearance. Information is available at the school office.

### **School Council**

All parents are welcome to participate in School Council. School Council provides an opportunity for parents to advise the Principal and school board respecting any matter relating to the school. Meetings occur on the first Tuesday of every month, or as otherwise posted, at 6:30 p.m. at the Knob Hill Campus.

## **Governance: Calgary Arts Academy Society Board**

**Calgary Arts Academy Society Board shall carry out its duties in accordance with Provincial Legislation requirements and the Bylaws of the Society.**

1. CAAS Board shall have full control and management of the affairs of the Society.
2. CAAS Board is not involved in the day-to-day operations of the school.
3. CAAS Board's main duties will be planning, policy development, appraising and adjudicating appeals, fundraising, and advocacy for Arts Education.
4. CAAS Board is responsible for establishing new policies and /or initiating reviews or revisions of existing policies that govern the operations of the school.
  - a. CAAS Board shall carry out its duties in accordance with the Societies Act and the School Act, section 60.
  - b. CAAS Board shall operate the school in accordance with the Charter approved by the Minister.
  - c. CAAS Board will be elected by the Society to govern the operations of the school on its behalf.
5. The Board shall focus its efforts on the link between the Board and its members.

## **Calgary Arts Academy Foundation Board**

1. The CAAF Board is accountable to its membership, to the Calgary Arts Academy Society and to the Government of Alberta as indicated in the Societies Act.
2. The CAAF Board's main duties will be planning, policy development, and fundraising.
3. CAAF Board is responsible for establishing new policies and /or initiating reviews or revisions of existing policies that govern the operations of the Foundation.

## **Summary**

Calgary Arts Academy Parent Handbook is intended to provide an overview of the school program and operations. If you have further questions that are not addressed here, please contact your child's teacher, the office or school administration. Thank you for taking the time to review this information; we look forward to sharing a rewarding educational journey with you and your child.