

Huntsville School



Handbook 2024 - 2025

Huntsville School

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Mission Statement

Huntsville School is a highly collaborative and engaging learning community that challenges students to realize their learning potential, and grow as socially responsible citizens.

Beliefs

1. We believe that through collaboration and teamwork we can strengthen our school community of respect, responsibility, and academic growth.
2. We believe that fostering critical thinking will better prepare students for continuing education and their future challenges, so that they can become contributing members of society.
3. We believe that citizenship, ownership, and involvement will enrich our lives and our school community as a whole.

At Huntsville, we value:

- The beliefs and culture of our Low German Mennonite families
- Physical, emotional, and social well-being
- Student leadership
- Personal growth, resilience, and persistence
- Pride in personal and community accomplishments
- Technology to support learning and digital citizenship

School History

Huntsville School derives its name from the very first school building in this area which was erected on land owned by Will Hunt about five miles south of Iron Springs. The building was later moved to its present site.

Currently we have approximately 160 students from Early Learners to Grade 12.

Huntsville Staff 2024/2025

Daniel Grimes	Principal
Leah Oviatt	Admin. Assistant
Melissa Easthope	Learning Support Teacher (LST)
Tanya Slomp	Early Learning
Bailey Clarkin	Kindergarten
Cassidy Cooper	Grade 1/2
Gillian Miller	Grade 2/3
Desiree Cosman	Grade 4/5 (& 6/7 Science)
Diana Laturus	Grade 6/7 (& 4-9 Math)
Chad Oviatt	PE & 8/9 Science, 8-12 Math
Connor Nofle	8-12 Humanities, Options & PE
Ashley Gruninger	6-9 LA & HS Humanities
Michelle LeBoutillier	Learning Commons Facilitator
Lisa Thiessen	Educational Assistant & German Instructor
Courtney Puurveen	Educational Assistant
Linda Funk	Educational Assistant
Nancy Suderman	Custodian
Dan Doerksen	LGM Liaison and Bible Instructor
Nicole Elaschuk	Making Connections Worker
Megan Hamilton	Family School Liaison Counsellor
Myles Havinga	Off-Campus Teacher

Bell Schedule

Monday - Thursday		Friday	
8:25 am	Buses arrive	8:25 am	Buses arrive
8:30 am	Instruction begins	8:30 am	Instruction begins
10:30 am	AM Recess	10:30 am	AM Recess
10:45 am	Instruction begins	10:45 am	Instruction begins
12:00 pm	Lunch	12:00 pm	Lunch
12:20 pm	Lunch recess	12:20 pm	Lunch recess
12:40 pm	Instruction begins	12:40 pm	Instruction begins
2:15 pm	PM Recess	2:15 pm	Dismissal
2:30 pm	Instruction begins		
3:30 pm	Dismissal		

Safe & Caring

Helping to promote a safe and caring environment which will enable students to excel in their studies and at the same time enjoy school. We believe that the safety and dignity of a person is of the utmost importance. It is critical that all students and staff feel safe and respected at Huntsville School. Effective, positive discipline comes from teaching individuals to be responsible for their behavior.

Low German Mennonite (LGM) Liaison

The Low German Mennonite Liaison supports families in a number of ways such as interpreting between English and Low German languages, registering students, and explaining paperwork sent home. The LGM Liaison also shares resources to support German and Bible instruction, and shares information with staff and students about Mennonite history, culture, faith, and values. Overall, the LGM Liaison assists with any necessary support to help families understand our school system, feel connected to the school, and encourage students to graduate from high school.

Making Connections Worker (MCW)

Making Connections Workers are intended to increase the emphasis on prevention and health promotion and improve access to services in the community.

Services Making Connections Workers provide include: facilitating targeted skills groups, classroom presentations and programs, supporting families and referring them to services in the community, and liaising between community and school supports.

Family School Liaison Counsellor (FSLC)

Individual counseling is available to deal with an array of needs including grief/loss, self-esteem, mentoring/positive role modeling, school attendance, conflict, sadness, worry, peer/friendship issues, and problem-solving.

Busing

Most of our kindergarten to grade 12 students depend on bus transportation. Currently, we have three buses that transport students to our school. To help ensure safe travel on the buses, students need to follow these key bus rules.

- *The bus driver is in charge at all times. You must listen and follow instructions.
- *Students must remain seated at all times when the bus is in motion.
- *Students must not extend any part of their body out of windows.
- *Aisles must be kept clear.

Riding the bus is a privilege, and students who do not follow these rules may result in suspension from riding the bus until assurance is received from parents and the student that these rules will be followed.

Student Drivers

Students may use their vehicles for the purpose of transportation to and from school provided consideration is given to the following:

- *Students are not permitted to drive other students in their vehicles
- *Drivers must operate their vehicles in a safe manner and follow driving regulations - driving violations may be reported.

Parking & Picking Up Children

Our children's safety is our #1 priority. All entrance doors to the school will be locked, please ring the doorbell and someone will assist you. If dropping off or picking up your children, please park in the loading zone and wait until the school buses have finished unloading or loading.

Please ensure your children do not arrive at school earlier than 8:25am.

Emergency Procedures

School responses to emergency situations follow the Palliser Crisis Response Digest. The school will conduct regular fire drills, lockdown drills, to familiarize students with procedures and expectations.

School Council

Huntsville School Council is a group of committed members who offer their time and energy to organize events and activities for the students of Huntsville.

All parents are welcome to attend the School Council meetings. We also have a parent association to support school fundraising.

Parent Volunteers

School volunteers are required to provide a current Criminal Record Check. Volunteers must provide the RCMP with a letter request from Huntsville School. It may take up to 2 weeks to process your request, so please contact the school if you are interested in volunteering this year.

Attendance

Regular attendance is very important and must be encouraged. Please call the school if your child is going to be absent. If students are sick or not feeling well, they will be required to stay home until they are well and do not have symptoms. We will continue to follow Alberta Health Services guidelines regarding additional stay at home protocols.

Outdoor Recess

As fresh air, sunlight and exercise have a positive effect on student attentiveness and ability to learn, we request that all children go outside at recess times. In cases of extreme weather conditions, staff will make a decision for students to stay indoors. Otherwise, it is expected that all students will go outside for recess and during the noon hour.

Student Dress Code

School is a place of work and students are expected to dress accordingly. It is very important that children are dressed appropriately for the varying weather conditions. Proper footwear is required at all times in case of emergency evacuation of the school or fire drills. An extra pair of clean running shoes is required for indoor and gym spaces.

Cell Phones and Personal Devices

Our school provides students with the necessary technology for teaching and learning so cell phones and personal technology devices are not needed at school. We request that students do not bring any personal devices to school, including on the bus. An exception can be made for high school students to have cell phones with them at school, but they should not be used during class time or in common areas.

The Provincial Government has created a cell phone policy. Huntsville has updated the policy to meet provincial requirements.

School Fees

Schools within our division collect student school fees and then send these fees into our central office.

The Huntsville School fees for the 2024-25 school year are as follows:

<u>Early Learners & Kindergarten</u>	
Student bulk supplies	\$40.00
Total	\$40.00
<u>Grades 1 to 7</u>	
Student bulk supplies	\$40.00
Technology	\$35.00
Total	\$75.00
<u>Grade 8 to 12</u>	
Student bulk supplies	\$40.00
Technology	\$35.00
CTS Fee	\$30.00
Total	\$105.00