

Belonging, Excellence, Accountability, Respect, Safety

Principal's Message

It has been a particularly smooth week at BCHS even with our high energy grade orientation day on Tuesday and then with regular classes resuming on Wednesday. Our students have hit the ground running and staff are enjoying getting to know them all over again after the summer break. In addition to our new Grade 9 students we have welcomed nine international students this semester from Finland, Czech Republic, Spain, Brazil, China, India, and Germany. Although our Grade 12 class size is smaller than their predecessors they are ready to lead our student body and are treating us to a 'welcome back' BBQ on Friday at lunch. Enjoy the long Labour Day weekend everyone!

Staffing News

After fifteen years with Canadian Rockies Public Schools and four years at BCHS, our administrative assistant, **Ms Renée Husdal** is retiring. Her last day is **Friday, August 29th**. We thank her for her tremendous contribution to our school; her daily care of our students in the office answering questions and making things happen for them, her expertise in office management and accounting and her positive attitude to any challenge. Renée also volunteered to run the daily breakfast program at the school which set up our students with the right fuel to be able to focus on their learning. Renée will be greatly missed at BCHS.

In other staffing news since the welcome back letter was sent home we are thrilled that **Mr Lee Luders** is returning to BCHS part time, teaching Construction in the afternoons. **Ms Emily Clarke** will be teaching Physical Education and Makerspace part time.

'SWAG' Hike Day Planning

Next week we will start organising our annual Hike Day in our SWAG (School Wellness Advisory Groups). This is a tradition at BCHS that allows students to explore Banff National Park over the four years that they are with us. It helps build community as the hikes are made up of students from all grades and obviously we hope that being out in the great outdoors boosts everyone's wellness. Hike Day is on **Tuesday, September 9th** but if the weather is looking poor we have September, 10th in reserve. This year's hikes are: Larch Valley, Stanley Glacier, Plain of Six Glaciers, Healy Pass, Lake Annette, Boom Lake, and Little Beehive. Students will choose their hikes on Wednesday so parents should look out for a consent letter to sign and return by **Friday, September 5th**. On **Monday, September 8th at 6.45pm** there will be a virtual meeting

for any parents whose child has chosen Stanley Glacier. This hike is considered to be out of province and therefore we are required to hold an information session. A link to the virtual meeting will be sent out towards the end of next week.

Dress Code

Our Code of Conduct for students requires students to 'dress appropriately for classes and activities'. In our student and families handbook we also describe that 'students should consider how they present to others when they choose what to wear to school. This school is a workplace environment that focuses on respect for all, building self-esteem, and supporting diversity and individuality.' As we continue to have hot weather at the end of August and into the start of September we will be reminding students of what 'appropriately dressed' for school means.

Outcomes-Based Assessment Grades 9 and 10

In 24/25 CRPS high school teachers adopted a more accurate, bias-resistant, and motivational method for assessing and reporting Grade 9 student learning. This assessment process moves away from traditional methods that focus on single, overall grades. In 25/26 this approach will continue for grade 9s and start being implemented in Grade 10 level courses. This change aligns with evidence-based research, the Shared Vision of Learning, and CRPS' existing practices in Kindergarten to Gr. 8. Despite this shift, overall percentage grades reflecting student achievement will still be reported.

Outcomes-based assessment centers on evaluating students based on how well they meet specific learning outcomes outlined in [Alberta Education's Programs of Study](#). This study details what students should know and be able to do. Unlike traditional grading, this method focuses on demonstrated knowledge and skills rather than factors like behavior, attendance, or participation, which are reported separately. This approach allows teachers to provide clear feedback, helping students understand the criteria for success, and areas where they need to improve. Students become more engaged and motivated when they know which outcomes they have mastered and which require more effort.

Teachers assess student achievement by comparing their work to the learning outcomes. Evidence of learning includes classroom products (essays, projects, tests), performance tasks (presentations, labs, drills), and observations. Some of this evidence is used to give students feedback and does not count toward final grades (Formative Assessment), while other assessments contribute to the final grade (Summative Assessment).

Extra Curricular News

Athletics

Cross Country

Thursday, September 4 is the first practice for the BCHS Cross Country run team. Any student interested in joining should meet in Purkis Hall at 11:30am.

Volleyball

Senior Boys and Girls volleyball team tryouts are this week. Please check the BCHS calendar for dates and times.

Golf

Anyone interested in playing on the BCHS golf team should speak with Ms. Haugan as soon as possible.

If you are interested in helping support our athletics program, please contact our Athletic Director, Martie Haugan, at martie.haugan@crps.ca.

The Week Ahead

Monday, September 1, 2025

- Labour Day - school closed

Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025

- Last day for course changes for Grade 12
- Grad Meeting Lunch 11:25am
- Senior Girls Volleyball tryouts from 3:30-5:00 pm
- Senior Boys Volleyball tryouts from 5:00-7:00 pm
- Cross Country practice 3.30-4.30pm

Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025

- Hike Day planning and sign up in SWAG
- Student Leadership at lunch 11:43am

Thursday, September 4th, 2025

- Green Team/High Hopes Meeting Lunch 11:25
- Senior Girls Volleyball tryouts from 3:30-5:00 pm

- Senior Boys Volleyball tryouts from 5:00-7:00 pm
- Cross Country practice 11.30am -12.15pm
- Sr. Concert Band meeting in band room at 11:55am

Friday, September 5th, 2025

Upcoming Dates

- Sept 8th - School Council Meeting 5.30pm
- Sept 8th - Stanley Glacier Hike virtual meeting for parents 6.45pm
- Sept 9th - Hike Day
- Sept 10th - Hike Day reserve
- Sept 12th - JV Girls VBall tournament @Oilfields
- Sept 17th - Wim WE 10A Cirque C Hike
- Sept 17th - Grade 12 Grad and Post Secondary Meeting 5.30pm
- Sept 17th - Open House 6.30-7.30pm
- Sept 19th - Half Day Friday A&B Blocks
- Sept 19th - Terry Fox School Run
- Sept 19/20th - Sr Boys volleyball tournament @Oilfields, Sr Girls tournament @CCHS
- Sept 22nd - Wim WE 10B Cirque C Hike
- Sept 22nd/23rd - Overnight hike for Outdoor Ed 9 to Quaite Valley
- Sept 26th - Sr Boys volleyball tournament @Airdrie, Sr Girls volleyball tournament @Oilfields
- Sept 30th - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - school closed

News

Bow Valley Settlement Services Information and August newsletter [click here.](#)

Follow the [link](#) to view the highlights in The Brief from the June CRPS Public School Board Meeting.



Wellness Counsellors

Ms. Emily and Ms. Bekar are available to provide mental health support while at school. Please reach out if you or someone you know is struggling, or call/text or chat anytime by reaching out to KidsHelpPhone.ca or 1-800-668-6868.

CRPS Annual Calendar 2025-2026

At the March CRPS public board meeting the 2025-2026 calendar was approved. It can be found on the CRPS website [HERE](#). Also on the same link, you will find the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 calendars that the Board has approved in principle.

BCHS Bear Tools

- [Parent Portal](#): provides daily updates on your child's marks and attendance, school fees, and more.
- [myPass](#): official Alberta Education transcript of marks for grades 10-12
- [2024/2025 Student / Parent Handbook](#) contains important information and dates.
- [2024 - 2025 School Calendar](#)
- [Archived newsletters](#)
- [BCHS Events Calendar](#)
- [International student host families](#) wanted - [apply here](#)
- [Volunteers](#): need a criminal or vulnerable RCMP check yearly. Contact the office for more information.
- [School Fees](#): course fees are now overdue. Basketball fees have been added.
 - School fees can be paid online through [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#).
 - In cases of financial hardship, please email Renee Husdal or call 403-762-4411.

Bear Celebrations

If you have a BCHS Celebration that you would like to share with our community, please email natasha.miles@crps.ca