



**Abbotsford Christian Middle School
Student and Parent Handbook
2011 - 2012**

Principal: Mr. Tym Berger
Vice Principal: Mrs. Sandra Barthel
Vice Principal: Mr. Paul Still

35011 Old Clayburn Road
Abbotsford, BC
V2S 7L7

Phone: 604-755-1891
Fax: 604-859-9995

Welcome

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year here at Abbotsford Christian Middle School! We are excited about “Exploring with a Purpose”. Our goal is to involve our students in their learning in meaningful ways. There will be assignments and projects that are designed to engage you in your learning, and in all things, to remember that God is the centre of everything we do.

As a school community, it is our prayer that each one of you has a fantastic year. We hope that you come to know your Lord, His creation and yourself a little better through your time here.

There is a lot of useful information in this handbook, please read through it carefully and refer to it throughout the school year.

May God encourage us all as we encourage one another here at ACMS!

Mr. Berger, Principal

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Our Mission

Abbotsford Christian School, operated by Abbotsford Christian School Society members, seeks to serve Christian families by providing a secure learning environment in which God’s children can continue to explore, experience and evaluate all of life under God.

We aim to nurture students in the discovery and development of their abilities and unique gifts so that they are enabled to be faithful, discerning, obedient and creative servants of God and of neighbour; and stewards of His creation.

2011 – 2012 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Aug	31	New Parent Orientation
Sep	6	School Opens - Full Day
	9	School Pictures
	15	Middle School Meet the Teacher
	22	Middle School Matters published
Oct	4	Picture Retakes
	4	Grade 6 Vaccinations
	6, 7	CTABC Convention - No School
	10	Thanksgiving Day - No School
	15	ACS Auction
	27	Middle School Matters published
	21	Provincial Curriculum Day - No School
Nov	11	Remembrance Day - No School
	16, 17	Parent-Teacher Conferences – evening
	18	No School
	24	ACS Society Meeting, 7:30 pm
	24	Middle School Matters published
Dec	1	Honorary Members Banquet
	6	All School Christmas Concert @ Seven Oaks Alliance Church @ 7:00 pm
	9	First Report Card issued
	17	School closes for Christmas Break
Jan	3	School re-opens after Christmas
	20	Staff Retreat – No School
Feb	2	Middle School Matters published
	10	ACS Gala
	6-24	FSA for Grade 7
	17	Curriculum Day – No School
March	16	Second Report Card Issued
	16	School Closes for Spring Break
April	2	School reopens after Spring Break
	6	Good Friday – No School
	9	Easter Monday – No School
	10	Grade 6 vaccinations
	19	Middle School Student Led Conferences – evening
	25, 26	Middle School Coffee House - evening
May	3	Middle School Matters published
	7	Music Monday
	10	New Middle School Parent Orientation
	21	Victoria Day – No School
	24	Celebration BBQ
June	11-20	Grade 8 Exams
	14	Middle School Matters published
	15	Volunteer Appreciation Chapel
	21	Grade 8 Celebration
	22	Last Day of Classes (K –8)
	29	Report Card Pickup 9:00 – 12:00

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS- Regular day

8:20	Warning bell
8:25	School begins
8:25 - 8:35	Anchor Time
8:35 - 10:20	Classes
10:20 - 10:40	Break
10:40 - 12:25	Classes
12:25 - 1:05	Lunch Break
1:05 - 2:50	Classes
2:50	Dismissal

SCHOOL HOURS- Late Start Thursdays

8:55	Warning bell
9:00	School begins
9:00 - 9:10	Anchor Time
9:10 - 10:55	Classes
10:55 - 11:15	Break
11:15 - 12:25	Classes
12:25 - 1:05	Lunch Break
1:05 - 2:50	Classes
2:50	Dismissal

ATTENDANCE

The school office must be informed whenever you will be absent. A parent should phone the school (604-755-1891) between 8:00 and 8:25 a.m.

If you arrive late at school you must always check in at the school office on your way to class. (You must be in your classroom by 8:25 a.m.) If you leave for appointments during the school day you must check out at the office. There will be an adjusted schedule on Thursdays because of the late start to the school day.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION

School cancellations will be posted on the school website: www.abbotsfordchristian.com.

They will also be announced on radio KWPZ (106.5 dial) and STAR FM (107.1 dial) starting at 7:00 AM. Emergency mid-day closings will be announced in the same way.

ILLNESS AND INJURY AT SCHOOL

The school secretary will phone home if you are injured or ill at school. If no one answers at home, your parents' work numbers or the emergency contact numbers supplied by your parents will be tried.

TELEPHONE

A courtesy telephone is available for **essential** calls in the office during break times. Please keep all calls short. Calls that need to be made during class time must be approved by your teacher or the office.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and Found is located in the lower hallway. Lost jewelry is kept at the office. Unclaimed lost and found items are donated to charity approximately once a term.

AGENDA BOOK

We will **not** be using agendas this year, instead students, teachers and parents will communicate through email. All students have access to their school documents through the MYACS intranet. Parents may

log on to their son or daughter's account to access student files and emails.

Details will be sent home in September with the Computer Use Agreement.



Abbotsford Christian Middle School EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Christian Education

Partnership:

Your parents have decided that they want to work together with a Christian School to educate you. As you grow up it is important that you also want a Christian education.

Biblical Worldview:

At ACS we believe that Jesus Christ lays claim to every part of life. Your teachers try to open your eyes to the wonder of God's world. They also explore with you the effects of sin in our world and what we, as Christians, need to do in bringing healing around us. Teachers will help you find your place in God's story as you live a life of faith and service.

Purposeful Learning:

Teachers look for ways that you can develop the gifts and talents God has given you.

They help you learn in ways that are meaningful for students in Middle School. They understand that it is important for you to explore, to have choices and to work in groups.

Wise Choices:

At Middle School we try to give you practice in making wise choices in thinking about our culture, the literature we read, the media that we watch, the way we dress and the way we treat others.

INTEGRATED STUDIES

Each grade will focus on one big idea for the year. This will be the framework for much of the year's curriculum. At each grade level teachers strive to integrate the various subjects in order to make your learning more meaningful.

Grade Level Themes

Grade 6 – *Where in the world am I?*

This is the question that will come up again and again as you learn about other cultures, global awareness, exploring extreme environments, electricity and energy use, diversity of life, and growing and changing.



Grade 7- *Change*

Change will be the emphasis of many of the Grade 7 units. You will learn about the changes that have occurred over time through our study of ancient civilizations, and how change occurs in biomes, chemistry and geology. Throughout all of your learning you will be encouraged and challenged to be agents of change. You will also look closely at how God wants you to respond to change and be active workers for shalom in His world.

Grade 8 – *Digging Deeper*

Digging Deeper will be the big idea for most of your studies in grade 8.

Some units will be Self, The Middle Ages, The Renaissance, and Taking a Stand. Science units will explore chemistry, cells and body systems, fluid systems, optics and the eye, and watersheds.



BIBLE

Although a Biblical perspective is integrated within all subjects of the curriculum, Bible is also taught as a separate subject. You will explore the drama of God's plan for salvation as it moves from Genesis to Revelation. You will learn to see the Biblical view of people created in the image of God. You will study the central themes of covenant, kingdom, church, world, salvation, judgment, law and gospel. You will see that the Bible has something to say about all areas of life including knowledge, love, human relationships, government, family, war, peace and justice

MATHEMATICS

Numbers are involved in everything the Lord has made, so a study of mathematics is basic in any curriculum. Whatever the mathematical activity, you are investigating creation. This investigation includes number concepts, patterns and relationships, shape and space as well as data analysis.

SCIENCE

Science is also an opportunity to explore God's creation. You will look at the physical world as well as interactions and relationships among people, the physical world and the biological world.

FRENCH

French as a second language is taught to all middle school students. Through interesting themes you will learn how to communicate in a second language and develop an appreciation for other cultures.

FINE ARTS

The fine arts program seeks to reflect the joy, delight, creativity, as well as the struggles God's creatures' experience. It seeks to open up to you the worlds of art, music, dance, media and drama. You will practice and

experience them, study the techniques, and see how they are affected by the spirit of the age in which the art was produced.

MUSIC

Grade 6 The emphasis is on music listening and playing recorders, guitars, and rhythm boomwhackers.

Grade 7 All students participate in beginner band.

Grade 8 Students may choose whether or not to take band.



ART and DRAMA

Grade 6 and 7 Art and Drama are taught by one of the grade level teachers.

Grade 8 Students who do not take band take half a year of art and half a year of drama.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND FITNESS

In order for you to do your best at school, you need to be

healthy and physically fit. At ACMS you will have Physical Education everyday. **Gym strip is mandatory** and can be ordered in September (see supply list for details). There will also be a comprehensive intramural and athletics program. As well, you should make sure you are:

- getting enough rest
- eating well
- drinking enough water (you are encouraged to have a water bottle at your desk) and other healthy drinks (**ACMS is a pop and energy drink free zone**)
- staying active



SCHOOL LUNCHEAS AND SNACKS

Because some students have severe allergies to nuts, students may not bring food to school that may contain nuts or traces of nuts. For more information ask for a handout at the office.

Pizza is sold once a week by grade 8 students. The high school foods class offers a hot

lunch to middle school students at times throughout the school year.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Computers are viewed as a technological tool that should be used to support and serve the learning that takes place within the curriculum. In order to help you make good use of this tool, there are skills that you should master at each grade level. Computers are available for your use in your classroom and in the library. Classes also have access to the COW (Computers on Wheels) which is a mobile lab of laptop computers. The internet is available for research.

All students and staff are required to sign a Responsible Use Policy before gaining computer access.

LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SKILLS

The library is staffed by two librarians who are committed to serving you by providing you with good literature and resources through a variety of books and materials that support both the curriculum and your individual interests. The librarians provide support by giving book talks, assisting in research and library skill development, and helping with book selection. The library is

open from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on most days and most lunch hours.

FIELD TRIPS

Each grade will take field trips that are related to service projects or to the curriculum you are studying. Teachers will send home consent forms that must be filled out and returned before the trip date.

SERVICE

Everyone in the school is expected to serve others, either at school or in the larger community. Each grade will take on one or more projects which provide concrete opportunities to serve.

EXPLORATION

Students in Middle School need opportunities to recognize and identify their interests, gifts, talents and abilities. These activities also help you to explore who you are in relation to God, yourself, your peers and your communities. For that reason we like to offer a variety of activities in which you can do some exploring.

Some of that exploring happens in the regular curriculum through:

- Integrated units
- Choices in projects

- Choices in reading and writing workshops
- Swimming, Skating
- Grade 7 Band and Fine Arts
- Grade 8 Fine Arts Options
- Grade 8 Practical Arts (Sewing, Cooking, Tech Ed.)
- Class trips
- Physical education five times per week

Students also explore through optional extra curricular programs such as:

- Intramurals / Athletics
- Choir: Knight Sounds
- Book Clubs

As well, we like to offer short exploratory courses:

GRADE 6 PRACTICAL ARTS EXPLORATORIES

Students in grade 6 will be able to explore a variety of practical arts during short exploratory courses. Some courses that have been offered in the past include babysitting, Meccano, information technology, cooking, photography, cake decorating etc.



GRADE 7 RECREATIONAL EXPLORATORIES

Grade 7 students will be able to explore a variety of recreational activities during short exploratory courses. They may include hiking, golfing, rock climbing, bowling, etc.

GRADE 8 PRACTICAL ARTS EXPLORATORIES

All grade 8 students take a course in Home Economics and Technology Education. These short courses introduce you to these areas of study and are taught in the specialty rooms at the secondary campus. Grade 8 students also explore winter recreation and canoeing.

SUPPORT AND CHALLENGE IN LEARNING

All of us learn in different ways. Some students need support in some areas while others need to be specifically challenged. Teachers, along with educational assistants, will do their best to provide you with learning experiences to help you learn to the best of your ability.

HOMEWORK

Homework is important for learning responsibility, forming good study habits, and covering the amount of material necessary. You can expect 30 – 60 minutes of homework on

most school nights. On the days that you do not have specific assignments to complete, it is important that you spend some time reviewing new things that you have been learning. You are also required to read 100 minutes per week as part of your homework. Students who read regularly are able to be more successful in school.

If you do not complete your homework your teacher may send you to **the Study Centre** at lunch until your homework is completed. In addition to keeping up with your homework, part of being a responsible student is always having your supplies with you.

The Study Centre is open every lunch hour. You may choose to go there to get help with your homework.

PARENT/TEACHER/ STUDENT CONFERENCES

Your parents are expected to attend conferences at the school twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The fall conferences are held shortly before report cards. At that conference your parents and teachers discuss your progress and goals. The spring conference is led by you. At that time, you

will share your work with your parents so they can celebrate the learning you have done and work with you to set more learning goals.

Teachers and parents are working together to help you with your learning and may be in contact with each other at any time.

SOCIAL SKILLS

ACMS needs to be a safe place for all members of our community. In order for this to

happen, we must be a community where students and staff respect each other at all times. We will work together to build social skills in these areas. **We take social difficulties or bullying situations very seriously.** Adults in the school will help you deal with difficult situations that may arise.

Please do all you can to make sure that ACMS feels like a safe place for everyone.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

INTRAMURALS

Intramural activities will be held at lunch break three times a week. These activities will include some of the usual sports such as volleyball and basketball, but could also include games like Ultimate Frisbee. Activities may be cross-graded, grade-specific or class-specific, in which classes will be able to challenge each other. The goal of intramural activities is to involve as many students as possible, to build community, to practice skills and to keep active.

OPEN GYM

During morning and lunch breaks, the gym is usually open

for all students who want to be active.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

There are many opportunities to participate in student leadership. Most of these groups meet during the school wide reading block in Anchor time.

The following gives a brief description of each opportunity.

PRAISE TEAMS

Praise teams lead the school in worship during chapels. They practice under the direction of a teacher.

SOUND TECH CREW

A sponsor teacher trains and supervises students in running the sound system for chapels and other events.

OFFICE HELPERS

A number of grade 8 students serve in the school office during morning break. This gives Mrs. Vanderveen an opportunity to have her break with the rest of the staff.

YEARBOOK TEAM

Another group of grade 8 students prepare an electronic yearbook for their fellow classmates.

PIZZA LUNCH

Pizza is served by grade 8 students and is usually available once a week. Proceeds are used to fund student activities.

FRENCH CAFÉ

The French Café is also open once a week for snacks that must be ordered in French. Grade 8 students also provide service in French. Proceeds are used for Outreach.

SCHOOL SPIRIT TEAM

This group of Grade 8 students plans and runs school-wide activities to promote school spirit.

GYM RATS

This group of grade 8 students receives training to assist the intramural coordinator in planning and running the lunch time intramural program.

GREEN TEAM

Another group of grade 8 students guides our school in encouraging stewardship.

There will be other opportunities for all students to serve the school community as the school year progresses.



LIVING IN COMMUNITY

All students at ACMS are expected to respect God, people (including themselves) and property.

Here are a few structures and guidelines that will help you:

STAFF

Middle school staff members are a unique group of people. All staff members at ACMS have been chosen because they have experience with 11 – 14 year olds and want to work with students “in the middle”. All students will have a homeroom teacher who will assist when you need help and who will keep you accountable.

HOMEROOMS AND ANCHOR TIMES

At or near the beginning of each day you will gather with your homeroom class and teacher for at least 10 minutes. This is a time for you to connect with others in your class, spend time in devotions, participate in school wide reading, practice and learn social skills, learn study skills, hold team meetings and, at times, get extra help with your school work.

BUILDING

The middle school is built with wide hallways and gathering spaces where you may spend time with your friends. You may come into the building at 8:00 a.m.

Classrooms will open as teachers arrive. It is expected that hallways are kept neat and tidy. Please make appropriate use of lockers, garbage cans and recycling bins.

Please be sure to have a good pair of clean (non-marking) shoes for use in the gym. You may only use the gym when there is teacher supervision.

CHAPELS AND WORSHIP

We will gather regularly as a school on Fridays for praise and worship. Sometimes a class will give a presentation. Sometimes a student praise band will lead singing. At other times we will have special guests.



DRESS

How we dress should not be offensive, harmful or distracting to others. Students who do not abide by the following guidelines will not be allowed in class. Please avoid the following at school:

- clothing that is either too loose or too tight
- sleeveless tops and clothing that does not cover undergarments, midriffs, or cleavage.
- ripped clothing
- shorts and skirts shorter than 10cm above the knee
- leggings worn without proper length skirt or shorts (see above)
- clothing or accessories that advertise alcohol, drugs, band groups, or any message, signs or symbols in poor taste
- wearing hats indoors
- heavy chains or studded jewelry
- cologne, perfume or other strongly scented products
- going barefoot

Special events outside of school may require further directions for appropriate dress.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Public displays of affection that communicate a romantic attraction are not appropriate at school. This would include, holding hands, kissing, and frontal embracing.

DISCIPLINE

From time to time there are students who have difficulty in getting along in the community. Usually your homeroom teacher will work with you and your parents to solve problems. After a number of warnings students may be asked to serve an after school detention.

You may be sent to the office and given an in-school or out-of-school suspension for the following:

- repeated offences
- violence
- the use of illegal substances
- deliberate disobedience or disrespect

The goal of discipline is always to encourage redirection and reconciliation – to help you live as God calls you to live.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

You will be given space to keep your personal things (desk and locker). It is expected that you will keep your personal things neat and tidy. It is also important that you respect other people's things and leave them alone unless you have permission to use them. Please remember to have your locker locked at all times. **Do not give your combination to anyone else.** You are responsible for your lock; lost or stolen locks cost \$7.00 to replace.

ATHLETICS

THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Extra-mural athletics are an important part of the educational program at Abbotsford Christian Middle School. Our program emphasizes participation, teamwork and skill-building.

Participation in extra-mural activities is a privilege for students in our school. Each student who participates on any school team is a representative of our school and a representative of Christ. As a result, the school requires you to meet a basic set of criteria for participation on school teams:

Behaviour

Any behaviour requiring a school suspension may result in withdrawal from a school team.

A pattern of consistently negative behaviour observed by any teacher in the school may also result in withdrawal from a team.

School Work

Any student with incomplete assignments at the time of a game, tournament, or practice will be unable to participate. This does not mean that the

student is off the team, but that he or she will be unable to participate until assignments are completed successfully.

The homeroom teacher, coaches and the athletic director will be responsible for making this decision.

Effort and Attitude

Attendance at practices, willing participation in drills and activities (“coach-ability”), active encouragement of others, and commitment to functioning as a team player will also be considered when allowing students to participate.

2011 - 2012 ATHLETICS

This year at ACMS, we hope to offer a variety of team sports and individual sports including Badminton, Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, and Track & Field. We encourage all students who express a desire, and meet the basic criteria mentioned before, to play on a school team. Some sports may be limited to a specific grade. Sometimes there are also specific circumstances that allow for only a small number of students to attend a tournament. Please watch for more detailed information at the beginning of the year and as each sport season arises.

BULLYING PREVENTION

Abbotsford Christian Middle School needs to be a safe place for all members of our community. In order for this to happen, we must be a community where students and staff respect each other at all times.

Behaviour can be called bullying when

- the bully has social or physical power over the victim,
- the negative behaviour is repeated and is directed towards a specific person, or
- the bully's goal is to hurt the victim physically or emotionally.

If you are being bullied, you might choose to

- respond assertively to the bully,
- avoid the situation,
- get help from another student or a staff member.

If you see someone else being bullied, it is important that you get involved. You may choose to:

- help the victim think of solutions to the problem,
- join and support the victim so he/she does not feel alone,
- speak out against the bullying, or
- let an adult know. Use the form on the next page if necessary.

If you are not feeling safe in a situation, it is important that you get help. If you are not comfortable asking for help directly, fill in a copy of the form on the next page, fold it and bring it to the school office or to Mr. Still's office.

ACMS Harassment Report Form

Your Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

WHO was involved

WHEN did it happen?

WHERE did it happen?

WHAT did you see?

ACMS Harassment Report Form

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

WHO was involved?

WHEN did it happen?

WHERE did it happen?

WHAT did you see?
