

**O.M. IRWIN SCHOOL
2018-2019**



STUDENT HANDBOOK 2018-2019

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OUR MISSION

“Achieving Excellence”

OUR VISION



OUR VALUES

1. We provide *“Learning For All”*.
2. We support and develop each holistic learner.
3. We build character and community.
4. We promote communication.
5. We are a safe and caring school.
6. We embrace diversity.

O.M. IRWIN SCHOOL

The school was named after Dr. O.M. Irwin, a prominent citizen and physician in Swift Current. As a school board member, he was instrumental in establishing the first school library in Swift Current. Dr. Irwin served as Mayor of the City and was president of the Provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons. He was also Honorary President of the Swift Current City Teachers' Association.

O.M. Irwin School is designed to promote intellectual, emotional, physical and social growth according to the individual needs of each student.

The school moniker is the IRWIN ICE and is represented by a Polar Bear.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

O.M. Irwin Mission Statement.....	2
O.M. Irwin Staff	5
Bell Schedule	6
<u>A. School Procedures</u>	
1. Attendance	7
2. Lates	7
3. Leaving School	7
4. Illness/Injury	7
5. Lunches	8
6. Locks and Lockers.....	8
7. Personal Property	8
8. Emergency Management Plan.....	9
9. Student Dress and Appearance.....	9
10. Physical Education and Gym Use	9
11. School Grounds	10
12. Assemblies & Junior Concerts	
<u>B. Coaching & Managing Student Behaviour</u>	
1. Behaviour Expectations.....	10
2. School Bus Regulations.....	11
<u>C. Student Services & Activities</u>	
1. School Counsellor	12
2. Resource Centre/Library	12
3. School Telephone.....	12
4. Cell Phone Policy.....	12
5. Extra-Curricular Activities.....	13
6. Band Program	14
<u>D. Communication Between Home and School</u>	
1. Communication Tools and Opportunities	15
2. Parent Teacher and Student-Led Conferences ...	15
3. Tell-Them-From-Me Survey	16
(OurSchool Survey)	

O.M. IRWIN SCHOOL STAFF

Instructional Staff

Mr. Arron Kohlman, Principal
Mr. Curtis Biem, Vice-Principal
Mrs. Lynn Anderson
Ms. Kris Burnett
Ms. Heidi Connor
Mr. Kurri Darby
Mrs. Jennifer Dyck
Mr. Steve Dyck
Mr. Brett Eltom
Mrs. Shelley Fritzsche
Mr. Trevor Froese
Miss Brienna Gillanders
Mr. Chris Grainger
Ms. Michele Gurski, Counsellor
Ms. Tracy Haack
Miss Michaila Jersak
Ms. Kristen McWillie
Ms. Carys Nisbet
Mr. Ken Rand
Mrs. Jobi Regier
Mrs. Christie Robinson
Mrs. Karen Schommer
Mr. Mark Siemens
Mrs. Christine Thompson
Mrs. Ashley Tinant
Ms. Ashley Wagner
Mr. Scott Wong

Support Staff

Mrs. Heather Painchaud (Office)
Mrs. Joy Ostrander (Office)
Mrs. Debbi Bleackley (Library)
Mrs. Kathy Butler
Ms. Nicole Dyck
Mrs. Laurie English
Mrs. Cindy Griffin
Mrs. Rhonda Kendall
Ms. Alorah Kropf
Mrs. Carlin Lee
Mrs. Jeanne Myers
Mrs. Amy Popick
Mrs. Liz Ramage
Mrs. Lois Varjassy

Facility Operators

Mr. Paul Perkins, Head Facility Operator
Mr. Lawrence Forde
Mr. Marios Proniaris
Mr. Garry Wilson

BELL SCHEDULE
O.M. IRWIN SCHOOL

Warning Bell	8:30
Period 1	8:35 – 9:20
Period 2	9:20 – 10:00

Break/Recess	10:00 – 10:15
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Period 3	10:15 – 10:55
Period 4	10:55 – 11:35

Lunch	11:35 – 12:25
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Period 5	12:25 – 1:10
Period 6	1:10 – 1:50

Break/Recess	1:50 – 2:05
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Period 7	2:05 – 2:40
Period 8	2:40 – 3:15

A. School Procedures

1. Attendance

Regular attendance is necessary for successful school progress. If a student misses school he/she is responsible for the materials covered in class. This means completing assignments and making sure he/she gets any missed notes, or handouts. Data shows that a student's learning is greatly impacted in a negative way when he/she misses a lot of school. Students may be assigned to noon Homework Club to assist them with completing work due to absences.

Whenever a student is absent from class, he/she must ensure his/her parent or guardian either brings a signed note or phones the school the same day to confirm the absence and the reason. The purpose of contacting the school is for the home and school to communicate that a student is safe and accounted for. Thank you for assisting in this process.

2. Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up Times

Parents/Guardians, if you need to drop off your child, or have him/her walk to school in the morning, please respect the fact that students cannot arrive to school before 8:00am. If students arrive before 8:00am, they will not be supervised. Also, at the end of the school day, all students must be picked up from school by 3:30pm. After 3:30pm, students (unless they are involved in a school-approved activity) will not be supervised.

Student Drop-Off / Pick-Up: If you drop off or pick up your child, please wait in the foyer or office. This is especially important at the end of the school day. Parents and guardians must wait in the foyer or outside prior to the 3:15pm bell to ensure that the end-of-day routines and plans can be followed.

3. Lates

It is important that students arrive on time and be prepared to learn for each class. Each individual teacher may develop a personalized plan for dealing with late students. If a student is chronically late, parents may be contacted in order to develop a solution.

4. Leaving the School

If a student leaves the school during school hours, he or she must check out at the Main Office. Parents should notify the office via phone call or written note

before the student needs to leave. When returning to school during the day, students must report to the office before going to class. Whenever possible, student appointments (medical, dental, etc.) should be made outside of regular school hours. Students are expected to indicate on the Sign-Out List (in the office) the time they leave, and upon returning, the time they get back.

5. Illness/Injury

In the event of sudden illness or injury, the student should notify his or her teacher, excuse oneself from class, and come down to the office. If the illness persists or is severe, **the school will notify parents**, and arrangements will be made for the student to go home. Students are not to make their own arrangements to leave.

6. Noon Hour/ Lunches/ Snacks

Parents determine where they would like their children to be during lunch hour. Parents can choose whether their children eat their lunch at school (the school will designate an eating area), leave the school grounds to go home for lunch, or leave the school grounds to go somewhere other than home.

Grade 6, 7 & 8 parents are asked to indicate to the school if their son/daughter has permission to leave school during lunch on the Noon Hour Parent Consent Form.

The school will monitor students at noon. It is preferred that students stay on the school grounds during the lunch break. Students do not have access to microwaves at Irwin School.

Also, the staff at Irwin School strongly discourages the purchase and consumption of Energy Drinks due to the health risks associated with them. Students will not be permitted to bring energy drinks to school or consume energy drinks during the school day or during school-sanctioned activities. Also, please be aware that a number of students and staff have peanut allergies, so please try to keep peanuts/peanut products at home.

7. Locks and Lockers

All grade 5-8 students are assigned two lockers and are expected to use **TWO** school locks. One locker is for storage of books, coats, etc. The other is a tote locker in the locker room for storage of gym clothes, running shoes, etc. The same locks can be used for all four years while the student attends Irwin School. Lost locks **MUST** be replaced at the cost of the student. Students are not to **share**

their combinations with fellow students. Lockers are the property of O.M. Irwin School and are being loaned to the student. The School reserves the right to enter and search a student's locker when deemed necessary.

8. Personal Property

Items which distract, disturb others, or jeopardize student safety are not to be brought to school. If deemed necessary, a staff member may confiscate such items.

a) **Look after your belongings!** All items that belong to you should be clearly labeled. Students are responsible for the safekeeping of their belongings and valuables.

b) Lost and Found

-Articles that are found should be taken to the office and put in the lost and found.

-Please consult physical education teachers for articles lost in the locker room or gymnasium.

c) Bikes, roller blades, and skateboards

-Bikes should be locked and placed in the racks provided. They are not to be ridden on the school grounds. Rollerblades, skateboards, and longboards are not to be used on school property. These items should be securely stored from the time a student arrives at school to the time they depart. **The school assumes no responsibility for stolen or misplaced items.**

9. Emergency Management Plan

The Chinook School Division and O.M. Irwin School are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and staff members. In the event of an emergency, it is important to be prepared and able to respond in a responsible and thorough manner. In order to be prepared for an emergent situation at school, various practice drills will take place throughout the school year. Not all emergency responses will be practiced through the use of drills, however, it is important that certain drills are practiced each school year. Drills that are conducted throughout the year are:

- Fire Drills (6)
- Shelter-in-Place Drills (2)
- Lockdown Drills (2)
- Duck/Cover/Hold Drills (2)

Please call the school if you have any questions or concerns about the school's Emergency Management Plan.

10. Crosswalk

All students and parents/guardians are required to use the 10th and George Street Crosswalk if they are crossing George Street before or after school. Please do not cross George Street other than the patrolled crosswalk.

11. Dress and Appearance

In order to maintain a healthy, safe, caring and respectful school, we ask that students refrain from wearing inappropriate clothing while at school. School is a formal environment, therefore it is expected that students and staff are dressed appropriately. All students should strive to present a neat and clean appearance. If in the opinion of a staff member a student is immodestly dressed or inappropriately dressed, he/she will be asked to put on his/her Phys. Ed clothes and is expected to refrain from wearing the inappropriate clothing to school again.

Clothing such as strapless tops, crop tops, or shirts with low neck lines (showing midriff, chest, bare back) is not appropriate for school wear. Short shorts/skirts/dresses and revealing ripped jeans are not permitted unless tights/spandex are worn underneath them that meet the dress code requirement for length, (Appropriate length is when a student places their extended arms at their sides the shorts come to the middle knuckles on their fingers). Underwear is to be worn under the regular clothes and should not be visible at any time.

Clothing with profane wording or is of a demeaning nature is prohibited. Clothing bearing a printed message will be judged improper if the message is obscene, derogatory in nature, subject to more than one interpretation or promotes intoxicants or drugs.

Hats/headgear are not to be worn in the school and students are not to wear jackets during class time.

12. Physical Education

a) Participation

Regular participation is required for a student's success in Physical Education. Requests to be absent from parts of the class, or limiting participation, must be supported by a note from parents or guardians. Students will be expected to participate in the parts of the class in which they are able. Long-term absences must be supported by a doctor's note explaining the reasons and the length of the absence.

Should students need to shower after participating, time will be granted for that purpose.

b) Physical Activity Dress

Grade 5-8 students are asked to have the following items for Physical Education classes:

- O.M. Irwin t-shirt and gym shorts
- One pair of gym shoes
- Deodorant (for older students) in a metal or plastic container (no glass please)

One Irwin t-shirt and one pair of shorts can be purchased from the school store as a package or items may be purchased separately. Frequent washing of gym clothing is suggested.

The **gymnasium** and **all sports equipment** are off limits to ALL students unless a staff member has granted them permission. Also, students are expected to wear gym shoes in the gymnasium during open gym time before school, at noon and at breaks.

13. School Grounds

The parking lot is reserved for staff and visitor parking. This area is out-of-bounds to students during regular school hours.

14. Assemblies and Junior Concerts:

Our K-4 students will participate in a school assembly once a month to celebrate student learning and promote school culture. These assemblies will rotate each month to either be on Day 3 or 6. This will allow each Kindergarten class to equitably participate. We will also have special performances performed through our Junior Concert series. These performances will be an opportunity for our K to 8 students to come together. All junior concerts support our Arts Education program. Families are welcome to join us for our monthly assemblies and junior concerts. Please look for the dates of monthly assemblies and junior concerts in our monthly newsletter and on our school website.

B. Coaching & Managing Student Behaviour

1. Behavioural Expectations

Behavioural expectations at O.M. Irwin School are based on universal virtues of character:

- RESPECT
- RESPONSIBILITY
- ENTHUSIASM
- CARING
- EXCELLENCE

The school recognizes that people make mistakes. Making mistakes is part of learning and growing as individuals. Students who have difficulty meeting the teacher's or the school's expectations for behaviour have opportunities to correct their mistakes or to "make things better". Sometimes, part of this process is accepting consequences assigned by the teacher for behaviour that is not appropriate. Teachers may use a variety of strategies, including restitution, in working with students. There may be times when students refuse to attempt to "make things better", or students refuse to cooperate with their teachers. This student behaviour can be highly inappropriate or even pose a risk to the safety and well-being of other students. **These behaviours define the school's "bottom line" for behaviours that cannot be tolerated or accepted.**

These behaviours include the following:

- Verbal or physical assault with intent to harm
 - swearing at staff
 - swearing at another student
 - fighting
 - bullying
- Refusal to comply with the request of a staff member
- Consistent documented disruptions to the learning environment
- Behaviour that is injurious to the moral tone and reputation of the school
- Use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco
- Vandalism or theft
- Skipping school

The school believes that a student's individual circumstances or situation must be recognized when working with students to solve serious issues. We follow a philosophy of progressive discipline when dealing with student behaviour issues.

2. School Bus Regulations

Riding the bus is a privilege; therefore students are expected to follow the behaviour and safety guidelines set out by the bus company. If the bus driver deems a student's behaviour as jeopardizing the safe operation of the bus, that student will be returned to the school for pickup by a parent or guardian. Upon administrative review, the student may lose his or her bus privileges.

- First time offence..... Warning about removal of bus privileges.
- Second offence..... 3 days removal of bus privileges.
- Third offence..... 1 week removal of bus privileges.
- Fourth offence..... 1 month removal of bus privileges.
- Fifth offence.....Indefinite removal of bus privileges

Gross misconduct at any time may also result in the removal of bus privileges.

C. Student Services and Activities

1. School Counselling Services

Irwin School provides counselling services for individuals and groups of students. These services are designed to assist students to achieve academic goals and develop social skills. Other health supports such as the Addictions Counsellor and the Mental Health Counsellor provide supports at the school periodically.

2. Resource Centre/Library

There are no fines for overdue books or materials. Students are responsible for the materials they sign out. There will be charges for any lost materials or damaged materials not returned by year-end.

3. Telephones

Two telephones are located in front of the Main Office for student use. **These student phones should only be used before school, break time, lunch hour and after school.** Personal calls should be limited, and calls should be no longer than 3 minutes. It is not our practice to call students from class to the phone but we will take a message for them if necessary. All elementary students will need their classroom teacher's permission to use the student phone.

4. O.M. Irwin School Cell Phone Policy (or any device capable of messaging in any capacity)

Cell phones have become a means of communication for many students and families at O.M. Irwin School. In an effort to balance protecting the learning environment, providing a safe environment for all students and respecting the student / parent sense of security, the following policy has been developed:

Cell phones must be in “OFF” mode and stored in the student’s locker.

FIRST OFFENCE – Cell phone is confiscated and returned at the end of the day. A parent will be contacted.

SECOND OFFENCE – Cell phone is confiscated and a Parent/Guardian will be asked to pick up the cell phone from the Main Office.

THIRD OFFENCE – An in school suspension will occur for defiance of school policy, and parent / guardian will be asked to pick up the cell phone.

FOURTH OFFENCE – Out of school suspension will occur for overt opposition to authority, and parent / guardian will be asked to pick up the cell phone.

Students are encouraged to use the student phones beside the office. Parents are encouraged to leave a message for their child by calling the school at (306)778-9270. Cell phones may not be used during the course of the school day. Students may use their cell phones after school, as they are leaving the school premises.

Communication via Social media is expected to align with the school's Behaviour Policy.

5. Extra-curricular Opportunities

All students are encouraged to join a program that interests them. Activities vary slightly from year to year depending on the interests of the students and staff. In past years, Irwin has offered the following noon and after school activities:

Yearbook	Grade 5 Basketball	Outdoor Education	Shop Club (Gr.8)
Basketball	Jazz Band	Library Club	Grade 5 Flag Football
Volleyball	Badminton	Golf	Art Club
Track and Field	Drama Club	KBC (Gr.6-8)	Safety Patrol Program
Cross Country	KKIDZ (Gr.1-5)	Grade 6-8 Dance	Grade 5 Basketball
ICE Leadership Team			

6. O.M. Irwin School Band Program

Grade 6 students who enter the Band stream in the fall have **no more than six weeks after the Beginner Band Clinic in September to switch to a non-band stream.**

Grade 7 and 8 students who start the year in Band are expected to remain in the Band stream for the entire year.

7. Awards Day/Night (Grade 6, 7 & 8)

The format and structure of the Awards process at Irwin School is as follows:

1. Our Awards will be spread out over three (3) separate times. Parents/Guardians and family members are welcome and encouraged to attend.
 - Grade 6 Awards on Thursday, June 21 at 1:00 p.m. in the gym.
 - Grade 7 Awards on Thursday, June 21 at 2:00 p.m. in the gym.
 - Grade 8 Awards / Farewell on Thursday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym.
2. Citizenship Awards will be awarded to Gr. 6-8 students. Students are encouraged to nominate themselves or peers by completing a Citizenship Award Nomination form that is available in the office.
3. Students will be recognized for each 90+% average they attained in each class.
4. Students will receive an Academic Medal of Excellence if their overall average is 90% or higher.

D. Communication Between Home and School

1. Communication Tools and Opportunities

- A school newsletter is sent home each month. (Hard copy or electronically)
- Parents are invited to contact the school when they have questions, concerns or comments.
- Staff can be contacted via Email by typing the staff member's first initial, and last name, followed by @chinooksd.ca ex) djones@chinooksd.ca
- Teachers will contact parents when necessary.
- Our internet address is <http://schools.chinooksd.ca/irwin/>
- You can find the following information on our homepage
 - Email/text messages through school approved social media sites.
 - Announcements are updated daily and read during the morning homeroom period and are available at the following Internet address <http://schools.chinooksd.ca/irwin/index.php?NewsTab=3>
 - Synrevoice

2. Parent-Teacher Conferences and Student-Led Conferences

It is important for parents and guardians to work collaboratively to support each child's learning. Part of that collaboration involves clear communication and

discussion around a student's successes and challenges. In the 2018/2019, there will be a shift with regards to report cards, and the Student-Led Conferences:

- Report Cards – instead of three (3) report cards being issued in 2018/2019, there will be two (2) report cards that will be emailed to parents/guardians on January 20, 2019 and June 27, 2019. The fall will see the SLCs (Student-Led-Conferences) being replaced with Parent-Teacher Conferences. K-5 students will have a focus on reading, Writing and math during these conferences. The conferences (K-8) will take place in November. In March, teachers will decide to have a Parent-Teacher Conference or a Student-Led Conference. That choice will be dependent upon the needs of each student.

E. Tell Them From Me Survey (TTFM)

Irwin School will conduct the Tell Them From Me Survey (OurSchool Survey) for Grade 4 – 8 students. The data collected is anonymous and is used in order to help our school improve and support student learning. Student data is collected in the fall each school year.

F. Severe Weather Policy/Impact on Bussing

Chinook School Division and Rilling Bus (transportation service provider in Swift Current) will make the decision to cancel bus transportation for the day based on weather information provided by Environment Canada. Transportation will be cancelled for the entire day when the morning temperature is -40 degrees Celsius or the wind chill is -45 degrees Celsius or below. Cancellations will be broadcast on local radio stations and should not be confused with school cancellation. All Chinook School Division city schools will remain open. Parents are asked to use their own discretion regarding their child's attendance that day.

Parents are requested to call the school at 306-778-9251 to report their child's absence

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY AND TRANSPORTATION

Chinook School Division and First Student Canada (transportation service provider in Swift Current) will make the decision to cancel bus transportation for the day based on weather information provided by Environment Canada. Transportation will be cancelled for the **entire day** when the morning

temperature is -40 degrees Celsius or the wind chill is -45 degrees Celsius or below. Cancellations will be broadcast on local radio stations and should not be confused with school cancellation. All Chinook School Division city schools will remain open. Parents are asked to use their own discretion regarding their child's attendance that day.

RECESS

All students are expected to go outside for recess. If your child is sick and needs to stay inside, please get a note from your family doctor. On very wet or cold days (-25 Celsius with the windchill), all students will remain indoors for recess.