

Maverick High School Handbook



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MAVERICK SCHOOL STAFF

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Colin Smith – *Teacher*

Tanner Lange – *Teacher*

Scott Hunter - *Teacher*

Tammy Wallace – *Teacher*

Kayla Myers - *Counselor*

Krista Erickson - *Educational Assistant*

Alisa Meyer – *Educational Assistant*

Tessa Wallace – *Office Manager*

Jayne Nicholson – *Principal*

MAVERICK HIGH SCHOOL

In the 1800's there lived in Texas a rancher and politician by the name of Samuel Augustus Maverick. Legend has it that Maverick received 400 head of cattle as a repayment of a debt owed to him. But rather than branding these cattle, as was the custom, he simply put them out to pasture. In short - and much to the chagrin of his fellow ranchers - Maverick refused to "fence them in". As a result, over time the colloquial definition of the word "Maverick" has come to be: "one who departs from the customs or beliefs of his group."

Mission Statement

We at Maverick create the conditions that encourage individual learning by promoting:

- *uniqueness in a learning environment of emotional & physical safety*
- *the concept of multiple intelligences as a basis for individual growth*
- *the freedom to make choices without fear of judgment*
- *the ability to self evaluate using control theory*
- *learning as a fun activity*

Vision Statement

Maverick is an ever evolving school for highly independent youth. It is a leading edge student driven high school embracing the philosophies of multiple intelligences and applied control theory.

Belief Statements

At Maverick School we believe in using control theory to:

- *maintain a sober and trigger free environment that promotes health and well being*
- *maintain a safe, accepting, open-minded and respectful environment to ensure good vibes and a family-like atmosphere*
- *maintain a clean, respectful work environment where we can excel in our unique multiple intelligences and academic studies*

Three Rights

Our school believes that all students have these three rights:

1. The right to be respected.
2. The right to honest and straightforward answers.
3. The right to be encouraged to do well.

Guiding Principle

FREEDOM = RESPONSIBILITY

CONTROL THEORY & RESTITUTION

A belief and training in Control Theory and Restitution guide the philosophies and decisions made at Maverick School. In addition to ongoing professional growth by staff in these areas, the students are taught these ideas individually and in groups, and the ideas are introduced to parents when interest is indicated.

Control Theory states that all behavior is purposeful and that people's actions are guided by five needs: survival, fun, freedom, power, and love and belonging.

Control Theory is a counselling method developed by Dr. William Glasser. The first and most important step in Control Theory is to establish a good relationship with the other person. In the school, we do this by being friendly, using humor, being respectful and caring, identifying individual's strengths and by focusing on the present and not the past. We listen, avoid judging, coercing, criticizing, or protecting the person from natural consequences. The focus of Control Theory is to help people identify their needs, what they are doing to meet them, whether or not that method is working for themselves and for others, and to make a plan which will help them to successfully get what they want without harming themselves or others.

Restitution is a program developed by Dianne Gossen. The purpose is to help students evaluate the kind of person they want to be, to learn self-discipline, and to develop skills for resolving conflict. It is based on the philosophy that we are always doing the best we can, it is okay to make mistakes, and that fixing our mistakes will make us stronger people. Restitution focuses on beliefs rather than rules.

THE FREEDOM PROGRAM

In accordance with our guiding principle of Freedom = Responsibility, students may choose the Freedom program that best suits their lifestyle.

Freedom I

Freedom I students have the highest level of freedom and are thus expected to maintain the highest level of responsibility. Typically, these students have outside responsibilities such as full-time employment or their own families. They must interview and prove their case to be considered for Freedom I status, and must maintain a near flawless record of making and keeping commitments. Students who are unable to keep their Freedom I commitments may choose to go connected or return to Freedom II status when a seat is available.

Freedom II

Freedom II students have completed orientation and have a considerable amount of freedom within the school. During work periods, they may get a drink, grab a coffee, go to the washroom, eat and drink at their desks, visit with friends and listen to music while they are working. The guideline for a Freedom II break is, "Will I return to work in about five minutes?"

Freedom II students generally work on two subjects at a time, provided one of the courses is half complete. They are required to meet at least the minimum requirements of the achievement (marks) policy and are encouraged to keep a record of their plans and accomplishments each day.

ORIENTATION

Orientation is a two week period during which new students decide if Maverick School is the place for them. Students are encouraged to participate in any fun activities planned and to fully immerse themselves in the Maverick culture. Students may listen to music through headphones. Students are expected to work to full potential for all ten days to show that they are ready to return to school and are serious about getting an education.

During orientation students are not allowed to miss school or be late. Engaging in Facebook, YouTube or non-school related sites during work periods will result in the student having to end their attempt and restart orientation after a five day waiting period. Absences, not excused by a Doctor's note, also result in a restart after five days. At any time during the two weeks, should a student be late in the morning or returning from breaks or noon hour, the student will be required to stop their orientation and restart in five days. This five day wait time applies to only first restarts. Upon the second and third restart the student is placed at the bottom of the new student waiting list and their return to orientation is dependent upon availability of space in the orientation room. Throughout the course of the year an average of 35 new students will complete orientation. For this reason it is essential that students understand the importance of orientation and show dedication to the process.

CONNECTION

All students at Maverick High School, except those on orientation may choose to go connected at any time during the school year. There are three ways a student may choose connection: personal request, violation of attendance or marks policy (see below). The first connection is for a minimum of five school days. (Weekends do not count, but school holidays do). Upon a student's second and third connection, the student is connected for a minimum of ten school days. It is important to understand that as soon as one student chooses connection, another student from the waiting list will fill his/her spot; therefore, connections may last longer than one or two weeks if the school is at a maximum enrollment.

A student's connection period begins when the student makes a responsible choice to contact their teacher, request connection and set a return date.

Being connected means that a student is not allowed to access or engage in any distance learning academic work for their connection period. Students are welcome to visit before and after school, during lunch, during breaks as well they are encouraged to attend Friday morning class meetings, Wednesday group, yoga, art activities, and Friday activities. While students are connected they are expected to attend any teacher directed or video conferencing classes in which they are enrolled.

SCHOOL PROGRAM/CURRICULUM

Maverick School operates in conjunction with Chinook's Cyber School. All courses offered follow prescribed Saskatchewan curriculum. Courses are offered from grades ten through twelve. Students receive course materials and continuous evaluation from distance learning teachers, while receiving tutorial teaching and guidance from the Maverick staff. Reference materials, including textbooks, and other materials are provided by Maverick School. There is opportunity for student services such as computer programs to assist in completing reading and writing assignments. Distance learning is not for everyone. Courses are demanding and require self-discipline and long-term planning. Students' desire to learn must equal their need to learn.

Students may also obtain credits through enrollment in face-to-face classes with Maverick teachers. Blocked courses generally run over an eight week period. Courses offered for direct instruction vary year to year. In general the following courses form the face-to-face cycle: Math 10 or 20 Foundations, Control Theory 30, Social Studies 30, Physical Education 30 and Driver Education.

MAVERICK SCHOOL CALENDAR 2017-2018

Semester One

Aug 28	Student Registration Day
Aug 29	Local Administrative Day
Aug 30	Chinook Opening Day
Aug 31	Teachers' Convention
Sep 1	PLC Day/Admin Day
Sep 4	Labour Day Holiday
Sep 5	Students Begin - Policy Review
Sep 7	Math Foundations 20 begins
Sep 25	No School for Students
Sep 25-29	Outdoor Education Fall Trip
Oct 9	No School – Thanksgiving Day
Oct 10	SCC New Member Orientation
Oct 30	Chinook PD Day (Engagement)
Nov 7	Parent Night /Student Led Conferences
Nov 10	Math Foundations 20 ends
Nov 10	Remembrance Day Service
Nov 13	Remembrance Day Holiday
Nov 14-17	Art Flex Week
Nov 20	Control Theory 30 begins
Nov 27	SCC Fall Forum
Nov 27	Student Led Conferences in lieu day
Dec 6	White Ribbon Campaign
Dec 21	Christmas Banquet
Dec 22	Last Day of School
Jan 4	Students Return to School
Jan 19	Control Theory 30 ends
Jan 22-26	Art Flex Week
Jan 29	Soc. St. 30 begins
Jan 31	Turn Around Day

Semester Two

Feb 1	Semester Two Begins
Feb 19	Family Day Holiday
Feb 19-23	February Break
Mar 5 to 8	Provincial Exams
Mar 12	PD Day Chinook Based
Mar 12	SCC Spring Forum
Mar 29	Social Studies 30 ends
Mar 30	Easter Holidays Begin
Apr 2 to 5	Easter Holiday continued
Apr 6	PLC in lieu day
Apr 9	Students return to school
Apr 9 to 20	Phys Ed 30 Module One
Apr 17	Parent Night /Student Led Conferences
Apr 23	Student Led Conferences in lieu day
May 2 & 3	Coffeehouse
May 7-18	Phys Ed Module Two
May 22	Driver's Ed begins
May 21	Victoria Day Holiday
May 28-Jun 1	Outdoor Education Spring Trip
Jun 8	Driver's Ed Ends
Jun 14	Graduation Celebration
Jun 22-27	Provincial Exams
Jun 28-29	Administrative Days

GENERAL INFORMATION

Bell Schedule

8:15 am - 9:00 am	Early Bird Period
9:15 am - 10:30 am	First Work Period
10:30 am - 10:45 am	Morning Break
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	Second Work Period
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch Hour
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	Third Work Period
1:45 pm - 2:00 pm	Afternoon Break
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm	Fourth Work Period
2:45 pm - 3:30 pm	Late Bird Period

Reporting

Official transcripts will be mailed from the Ministry of Education approximately three weeks following the end of each semester. For this reason, it is important that Maverick always has a current accurate mailing address on file. Progress reports can be obtained at any time that show assignment completion dates and mark earned. Please contact the student's teacher to request a report.

Food and Nutrition Program

The Chinook School Division recognizes the importance of good nutrition to assist in learning. The school receives assistance from the division to provide healthy breakfast foods and one scheduled meal per week. Students participate by planning, budgeting, shopping, preparing, and maintaining a clean kitchen facility.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

School Community Council

The SCC is comprised of a minimum of five parent representatives, two student representatives, a teacher representative, and the school principal. Community members associated with the school may also serve on the council as non-voting representatives. It is the role of the council to support the school in achieving goals as set out in the School's A-3 goal setting documents. In addition, council members may assist with events and function as spokespersons for the school in the larger community. The council meets approximately six times a year. All parents and students are welcome to attend meetings and share in discussions, but only council members may vote on motions.

Open Houses

Family Open Houses are held for parents and families one evening in each semester. This is an opportunity for parents to see the school, talk with staff and receive an update of their students' progress. Students are strongly encouraged to attend with parents/guardians.

Parent Visits

Parents are encouraged to contact teachers or visit our school at any time. A parent/teacher meeting can be arranged at any point throughout the school year. We value parent involvement in their son's/daughter's education at Maverick. Please consider dropping in on Friday morning between 8:30 and 9:15 to enjoy a fabulous Maverick McMuffin breakfast!

STUDENT CREATED POLICIES

Class Meetings

Class meetings are held on Friday mornings. It is mandatory that all students in the building attend as this is the forum at which school policies are revised, created and voted upon. Non-attendance at class meeting while in the school will result in an absence. At class meetings students are encouraged to share thoughts in a supportive environment around many different topics. Students learn that you can disagree with an idea while being respectful of the other individual and their opinion.

Attendance Policy

Students, parents or guardians, must call **before** 9:15 or 1:00 to inform the school of a late or absence. Calls prior to bell times will result in excused lates and absences while calls after 9:15 or 1:00 will result in unexcused lates and absences. Students arriving after 10:45 will be considered absent. Leaving the school during instructional time (without prior approval) will also be considered an absence.

- ◆ The school year is divided into four quarters
- ◆ Two unexcused absences in one quarter will result in the student choosing connection
- ◆ Three unexcused lates in one quarter is the equivalent to one absence and can result in connection (see below)

If a student is facing connection due to lates, they have the option of working off the late by doing an early bird, lunch bird or late bird period and 30 marks worth of course material. This must be completed within two school days. If the student has another late prior to working off the previous late(s) they automatically go connected.

Students may also work off an absence by completing 3 “birds” or outside of regular hours work periods. During the extra work periods, students must complete a minimum total of 90 marks. Students may complete a fourth “bird” if needed to fulfill the 90 mark requirement. A student has one week to work off an unexcused absence. If the student has another late or absence during this period, they are automatically choosing connection.

Attendance Expectations

Students at Maverick School are required to attend every day that school is in operation unless prevented to do so by reason of sickness or unless pre-arrangements have been made with the student's teacher. Successful completion of coursework is dependent upon regular attendance. The attendance policy will always apply unless it is in direct conflict with the safety policy.

Marks Policy

The marks policy was created as a means to encourage student completion of course material. Students are responsible to engage in academic work completion or responsible participation in other school activities to accumulate “marks”. The marks policy reflects the minimum amount of work/participation to retain a seat in the school. Students are encouraged to achieve their highest possible work completion rate. At minimum, students must obtain 900 marks over a two week (10 school days) period. Teacher/student methods of planning for academic achievement may vary to accommodate student needs. Every second Friday is designated as *Freak Out Friday*, the time when the marks total is evaluated to ensure that the minimum requirement has been achieved. Students choosing not to complete the minimum requirement are choosing connection.

Smoking Policy

Maverick High School is a smoke free environment. Smoking, vaping and chewing are not permitted in the building at any time. Smoking/vaping are permissible in the north parking lot prior to the morning bell, during breaks, noon hour, and after class at the end of the day. By special permission a staff member can allow a student an extra ten minute break outside the school. If the student does not have special permission to leave the building they will be taking an unexcused absence. Smokers agree to take responsibility to clean the smoking area on a regular basis.

Alcohol and Drug Policy (reviewed September 14/2016)

Maverick School's Substance Abuse Policy regarding student use of alcohol, drugs, or other prohibited substances is intended to provide:

- a) An environment free from alcohol and other drugs
- b) Support programs that will help students to gain knowledge and develop the skills needed to make healthy lifestyle choices
- c) Understanding and support for those students and their parents who choose to address the problem of substance abuse

A student who attends school or any school activity while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is subject to a four step policy which must be followed to maintain enrollment. The policy is in effect for the duration of a student's enrollment at Maverick.

In determining whether or not a student is under the influence, students have agreed that if two out of three staff members believe a student to be under the influence then the drug and alcohol policy will be put into effect.

1st time - The student's parents are called and required to pick the student up from school. The day is recorded as an unexcused absence.

2nd time - The student will be required to meet with a drug and alcohol counselor to do a drug use assessment test. The student's parents are called and required to pick the student up from school. The day is an unexcused absence.

3rd time - The student will be required to seek and follow through with a treatment program as recommended by a drug and alcohol counselor. The student's parents are called and required to pick the student up from school. The day is an unexcused absence.

4th time - The student will be required to seek and follow through with a treatment program as recommended by a drug and alcohol counselor. The student must show evidence of successful treatment by submitting to a drug and alcohol test. The student's parents are called and required to pick the student up from school. The day is an unexcused absence.

In addition to the above, students should be aware that the principal or acting principal may request to check a student's coat pockets, backpack or vehicle if the principal or principal designate suspects that the student may be in possession of an illegal substance while at school. Students created this policy to assist in the effort to maintain a safe school environment free from drugs and alcohol.

Drug and Alcohol Talk

It is every student's responsibility to ensure the safety of others by abstaining from talking about any type of drugs and alcohol. This includes inside and outside of the school property and while riding in the school van. If a student is choosing to talk about drugs and alcohol; step 1 is a verbal warning from staff or other students. If students confront another student with a warning they are to notify a staff member. If a student chooses to continue to speak about drug and alcohol talk for a second time; step 2 is that student will be sent home as an unexcused absence.

Safety Policy

Students at Maverick School are committed to keeping every staff and student - physically, mentally, verbally, emotionally, and electronically safe 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This includes after school, weekends and all holidays.

Safety Meetings

If at any point in time the safety policy is broken, students will be required to meet with staff members to discuss and resolve the conflict. A staff member will meet with each student individually to discuss the lead up to the conflict and resulting issues. When deemed appropriate, all students will be brought together to discuss and resolve the conflict together. There are three scenarios that can occur during a safety meeting.

1. Students involved agree to own their behaviour and actions, set their differences aside and recommit to the safety policy.
2. Students involved choose to “agree to disagree” meaning each student believes that they were right or did no wrong; however, all parties involved recommit to the safety policy.
3. Students who choose to not recommit to the safety policy or choose to not meet to discuss the conflict or issues of concern will be asked to leave Maverick School property. The only time that students are not allowed to be on school property is when they choose to not commit to the safety policy. However, upon choosing to meet with school staff to engage in discussion and recommit to the safety policy, the student may return to the school.
4. As part of the meeting follow up, students must agree to “let go” of the issue and not discuss the matter beyond the safety meeting. Should a student choose to leave the meeting and engage in discussion about the topic with other students, they are breaking the safety policy and will be expected to engage in another safety meeting.

Unresolved conflicts/disagreements have resulted in an excessive number of safety meetings. This jeopardizes all students in that staff members are tied up in meetings and not available for academic support. In an effort to curtail ongoing disputes, students have created a policy to encourage the expedient resolution of disagreements. If a student chooses to engage in conversations or takes other actions to fuel a disagreement, a second safety meeting will take place to warn the student that any further action of this nature will result in a minimum three day connection from school. The student is expected to call their teacher prior to returning to arrange for a safety meeting. Upon returning to Maverick, the student must meet with their teacher or the school counselor and provide a plan to ensure adherence to the safety policy. Once the plan has been approved the student may return to normal academic and social activities at the school.

5. In order to ensure the best possible social environment for Outdoor Education trips, Maverick students must have 2.5 months of adherence to the safety policy (no safety meetings) in order to be considered eligible for Outdoor Education trips.

Internet Use

Students are to use the internet for assignment completion during work periods. Students found to be on non-academic sites such as Facebook, gaming sites or non-course related YouTube sites, will receive an unexcused late as relates to the attendance policy. Students  are permitted to use the Internet for personal purposes before and after school and during breaks. Searches may be done to ensure access of appropriate material only. Students may not bring gaming programs on auxiliary hard drives (memory sticks) to be used on school computers. This creates a risk for viruses to infiltrate the division servers. Students may not download music, but are encouraged to use soundcloud or spotify.

Telephone Use

Students may use the telephone that is available in the hallway. Office phones may be used with permission. Please limit personal calls to five minutes. Students are discouraged from making or receiving calls during class time, except in case of necessity.

Cell Phone Use

Students may use cell phones at breaks and lunch; however, the phone should be on “silent” during class time. While students are getting assistance from a teacher they shall respectfully limit their use of the cell phone. Cell phones are not to be used during school group activities (class meetings, policy review, Wednesday afternoon group, Friday afternoon activities, guest speakers, and teacher led classes).

Student Workroom Personalization (Room Decorating)

Students may personalize their rooms as they desire providing this does not interfere with anyone else’s personal space or conflict with Maverick’s safety policy or drug and alcohol policy. In addition, staff members may make the request for removal of an item that they deem as inappropriate for the school setting. Students must remove belongings when they change rooms or take a second connection (10 days) as they are not guaranteed the same room upon return. At the end of June, personal items left at the school are donated to local charities.

Students are encouraged to keep their desks and classrooms organized, including all plates and cups to be returned to the kitchen and placed in the dishwasher on a daily basis. Please do not leave valuable belongings unattended, as the school is not responsible for lost or damaged items.

Visiting in Rooms during Work Periods

At the respectful request of any room occupant, a visitor must leave the workroom. If a student wants to move and work in a different room they may be able to do so, providing they have spoken with a teacher prior to moving rooms.

Music Policy

Students must *all* agree to the choice of music in rooms and the volume must be such that it cannot be heard outside of the workroom. Music with school inappropriate lyrics may not be played. If the music in the room is too loud, the room will get one warning. Upon second warning students will lose their music for the day. In the computer room and orientation room, headphones must be used to maintain a quiet work environment for all.

Theft Policy

Every person at Maverick School has the responsibility and the right to inform staff when something goes missing and to share any knowledge if they know details surrounding the missing item(s). Every person has the opportunity to fix the relationship when something goes missing. Once something is reported missing, a class meeting will be held to discuss the incident. Victims are encouraged to voice their feelings and speak to the matter at the class meeting. Victims have the option to call the police if they wish.

Kitchen Policy

Students are provided with use of a kitchen where coffee, breakfast, lunch and snack supplies are available. It is the responsibility of students to rinse their own dishes and place them in the dishwasher. It is everyone’s job to maintain a clean lounge, music room and kitchen areas and confront anyone who does not clean up after themselves. Confronting must be done respectfully.



Meal preparation is to take place during the lunch hour or at breaks. During academic work periods, students may visit the kitchen to obtain a beverage or grab a snack. Students found hanging out in the kitchen or cooking during academic work periods will be taking a late as this is not responsible use of academic work time. Quick snacks that are available outside the lunch hour include: cereal, sandwich, toast and yogurt.

Visitors to the School

At Maverick School we wish to create welcoming environment for visitors while still maintaining our students' right to privacy. Visitors to the school are not accepted during academic hours. All visitors must sign in with front office staff and abide by the following expectation of meeting with friends in public areas rather than private student work areas. **With permission** from the workroom members, a non-Maverick student may visit with a Maverick individual in their workroom. Visitors are not allowed access to jam in the music room unless a Maverick staff member is present. Visitors will refrain from consuming food as this negatively impacts our limited school budget.

Ping Pong

Ping pong is to be enjoyed as a fun sport during breaks, during the lunch hour or before or after school. Playing Ping Pong during academic hours will result in a late.

Hanging in the Hallways

It is expected that students will reside in their assigned classrooms until the end of the school day bell. Choosing to wait in the hallways before the bell will result in a late.

Dress Code

As a Maverick School student you are free to wear what makes you comfortable; however, clothing, backpacks, lanyards, earrings or jewelry (just to name a few) that portray or glamourize the use of drugs or alcohol, profanity, sexual content or gang involvement, are not allowed. Students wearing any such item will required to remove the item or place duct tape over the offending content.

Hands Off

It is requested that Maverick School students respect personal space and others bodies by keeping their hands to themselves. If one is wishing to hug another, it is to be consensual hugging by both students.

Outdoor Education

Where appropriate and relevant, school policies will apply on all outdoor education adventures. Specifically, the drug and alcohol policy will be in full effect, and students should be prepared to have their bags checked by a staff member prior to embarking on any trip. Should students be found with contraband or under the influence of alcohol or drugs, their parents will be required to pick them up, the drug and alcohol policy will be adhered to, and further, those students will be unable to attend OE trips for one year after their first offence. Repeat offenders will be unable to attend OE trips for the remainder of their time at Maverick.

Students will also be prevented from entering another person's tent at any time, and tent groups will be approved by staff prior to embarking. Should a student be found in a tent other than their own, parents will be required to pick them up, and they will be unable to attend an OE trip for one year. Repeat offenders may be unable to attend further OE trips.

In keeping with Maverick School's safety policy, students who have been in violation of said policy in the two and a half months prior to an OE trip will be unable to attend.

To ensure the safety and comfort of every Maverick student, gender and sexuality may be a defining factor when determining tent groups. We seek to ensure the equal and fair treatment of all students, regardless of gender or sexual orientation though the final determination for tent pairing will be made by school administration in consultation with senior Chinook administration if warranted.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Physical Activities

On Friday afternoons all students are invited to **participate** in a fun physical activity. Activities include basketball, volleyball, golf, curling, swimming, walking, circuit training, etc. All activities are non-competitive and offered at no cost to the student. Students must be responsible participants in order to include the activity in their daily mark count. Non participation = no marks. Room cleanup will take place at 1:00 PM on Friday before Friday Activity will begin.

Yoga/Meditation

Yoga or meditation is held Monday afternoons from 2:00 PM-2:45 PM. Students begin to learn different techniques on ways to slow the mind and body to aid in stress reduction and improve sleep patterns. Healthy choices come from healthy mindfulness.

MHS Group - Mental Health Support

MHS is held every other Monday from 1:00PM-1:45PM in the student lounge. This group is designed to support youth struggling with anxiety, depression and other mental health related concerns. One of the resources used as a guide for this group is called “Anxious Kids Anxious Parents - 7 Ways to Stop the Worry Cycle and Raise Courageous and Independent Children” by Lynn Lyons and Reid Wilson.

Wednesday Group

Group is held every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 PM-2:45 PM, in the student lounge for students who wish to meet in a confidential setting to discuss a variety of topics that pertain to youth and around the world. Information may be shared through discussions, documentaries and or guest speakers. Some of examples of Wednesday group topics would be healthy relationships, anti-bullying, budgeting, and nutrition.

The cell phone policy for Wednesday Group is the following: students will politely and respectfully refrain from the usage of cell phones. A student who chooses to use their cell phone will receive a verbal warning to cease. Further reminders to cease using the phone will result in a deduction of 2 marks per warning in relation to their afternoon marks total.

Support Group

Support Group is held every Friday from 11:15 PM - 12:00 PM in the student lounge. Support Group is Maverick School’s own version of AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), NA (Narcotics Anonymous), Alateen and Alanon. Information related to these programs is delivered to youth in partnership with a representative from Cypress Health Region Addiction Services.

Visual Arts

Maverick is fortunate to have professional artists conduct lessons and guide students through various mediums. Student “works of art” are auctioned at our annual Coffeehouse and Art Auction in late April or early May.

Students have the opportunity to participate in digital photography and photographic editing instruction. Both still-life and landscape photography are investigated. Student photos are a popular item at our annual Coffeehouse.

Other Visual Art workshops involving pottery, painting and drawing, stained glass techniques, jewelry making and printmaking may be held throughout the school year. In addition, trips to our local art gallery provide students with the opportunity to view professional art exhibits and meet the artists. Workshops offered depend upon the availability of artists to facilitate instruction.

Students utilizing the art room agree to maintain a neat and orderly environment. Art supplies are purchased for student use with funds raised at our annual coffeehouse and art auction. Art supplies can be expensive; therefore, it is important that students do not waste paint and are careful to ensure that all paint containers are closed properly.

Music Lessons

Participation in Maverick's music program can result in attainment of Special Project credit. Students can also take lessons in piano, guitar, bass, mandolin, banjo and drums in the genre of music they prefer. Maverick hosts an annual Coffeehouse and Art Auction to showcase our students' accomplishments and raise funds for Arts education.

Ecological Education Activities

Students are invited to participate in many or all of the activities planned to become more educated about our natural environment. Camping trips, a highlight of the year for many students, are organized two or three times a year. Students participate in activities such as hiking, solotime, stargazing and tours. Activities planned each school year include fall and spring camping excursions. Past trips have taken place at Ness Creek, Pine Cree, Cypress Hills, Waterton and many more. Students who complete 4 full trips will receive a 30 level PAA Credit. New students will be required to complete a single overnight trip successfully in order to attend a full week trip.



Maverick House Band

The Maverick House Band is an after school jam session, wherein students are invited to spend time with a group of other student-musicians to learn songs of their choice, with the ultimate goal being fun! Every Tuesday after school, students can congregate in the music room and bring a song of their choice to share with the others to learn. This provides opportunities for students to engage in musical performances in a pressure-free environment, in order that they be able to explore their musical intelligence and potentially learn an instrument or try out their singing voice. We welcome musicians of all abilities, whether Jedi master or complete novice.

Writer's Guild

In the hopes of fostering the already well-established writing talent of the Maverick student population, prospective writers at Maverick gather for a bi-weekly session over the lunch hour to share each other's creative writing. While there are often themes, writing prompts and the occasional instruction provided, the Guild is at its core an opportunity to get support and feedback to aspiring young writers of all genres - poetry, short stories, non-fiction essays, etc.

Gay Straight Alliance - S.O.S.

At Maverick we have our version of a G.S.A. (Gay Straight Alliance) called the S.O.S. group (Sexual Orientation Support). The purpose of the group is to provide a safe place for students to meet, support each other, talk about issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. As well, the group works to put an end to homophobia and transphobia by creating awareness of accepted terms as relates to the LGBTQ + community.

Book Club

Work Out Club