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Website: www.amiskwaciy.epsb.net

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Fred Hines – Principal

THIS AGENDA BOOK BELONGS TO:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Province:** _____

Postal Code: _____ **Phone:** _____

Student No: _____ **Homeroom:** _____

Ta Tawaw! (Welcome)

amiskwaciy (pronounced a-misk-wa-chee) is a program of choice offered by Edmonton Public Schools. We welcome students of all backgrounds, grades 7 – 12, and provide strong academic programming with an Aboriginal focus. Our programs, scheduling and staffing are specifically designed to meet the needs of our students.

amiskwaciy is the Cree word for Beaver Hills. The Cree used to call the Edmonton area Beaver Hills House. The school name was chosen in consultation with Elders from the Aboriginal community.



The focal point of amiskwaciy Academy is student achievement and our highly qualified and dedicated staff work together to ensure that all students' goals are attainable. Our expectations of a high standard of achievement are based on the belief that all students can learn and reach their goals in a positive and supportive environment.

The vision of amiskwaciy Academy is to achieve academic excellence in education and to honor the Aboriginal community and reflect its cultures, values, ancestral knowledge and traditions. amiskwaciy Academy will provide a meaningful and balanced curriculum, bringing together the uniqueness of Aboriginal cultures, knowledge and languages in a positive and quality educational setting. This will be accomplished through the support of the Elders within the Aboriginal community.

amiskwaciy Academy will provide students with a balanced curriculum that reflects the values and traditions of the Aboriginal community. By teaching students about their Aboriginal cultural identity, amiskwaciy Academy will help each student to build a solid foundation for academic success.

Another aspect of the aboriginal culture is the traditional ceremonies. There will be spiritual guidance in the form of sweat lodges, rites of passage, and other ceremonies. A part of every school day will include a sweet grass purification ceremony, a morning prayer (done by singing and drumming) and meditation. Participation in these ceremonies will be optional, based on the concept of personal choice for each student.

The amiskwaciy staff looks forward to working with parents and students as we strive towards achieving success for all students.

All the best in your 2015-2016 school year.

2015-2016 School Timetable

Senior High & Grade 9 Schedule	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs, Fri
Morning Song	9:00
Block 1	9:15 – 11:50
Break	10:30 – 10:38
Lunch	11:50 – 12:25
Block 3	12:25 – 2:59
Block 4	2:00 – 2:08
Enrichment Block	2:59 – 3:19

Jr. High Schedule Grade 7 & 8	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri	Thurs (Periods switch every second week)
Morning Song	9:00	9:00
Period 1	9:00 – 10:08	9:00 – 10:08
Period 2	10:09 – 11:02	10:09 – 11:02
Period 3	11:03 – 11:56	11:03 – 11:56
Lunch	11:56 – 12:25	11:56 – 12:25
Period 4	12:25 – 1:18	Early Dismissal – Grade 7 and 8 students to leave premises
Period 5	1:19 – 2:12	
Period 6	2:13 – 3:06	
Enrichment Period	3:06 – 3:19	

Administration

Fred Hines – Principal
Lloyd Bloomfield – Asst. Principal
Lori Sorensen (High School) – Curriculum Coordinator
Terris Mah (Jr. High School) – Curriculum Coordinator
Charleen Woywitka – Office Assisstant

Teaching Staff

Mike Boroweiki
Chandra Hildebrand
Terris Mah
Lia Kurylo
Terrance Larocque
Larry Moro
Miroslav Slavic
Laurie Sorenson
Karen West

Support Staff

Lori Sorensen	Counsellor/Career Counsellor
Sherry Bates	Administrative Assistant
Kelly Cairns	Administrative Assistant – Front Desk
Robert Brooks	Educational Assistant

Elder

Francis Whiskeyjack

Oskapew

Lyle Luboucane

Custodian

Rohit
Head Custodian

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance in classes is expected of all students and it is the responsibility of parents and students.

Parents are encouraged to monitor attendance by contacting the school for attendance updates, or to request attendance profiles be sent home on a regular basis. The school will assist parents in correcting unsatisfactory attendance patterns.

Parents are requested to telephone the school at # 780-424-1270 to report any absences to the secretary. The calls should be made between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on the day the absence occurs. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

amiskwacy has a computerized telephone system (SynreVoice) that automatically calls parents of students who were absent from classes on any given day.

Punctuality (being on time to class) is a very important life skill. We expect that students will be seated in their classrooms when the buzzer sounds at the beginning of the period. Students who arrive late for morning or afternoon registration may be required to spend time at lunch or after school in an "extended learning opportunity" or "study hall". We understand that there may be extenuating circumstances for students and will therefore consider each case on an individual basis.

Signing Out

Students who are required to leave for medical or dental appointments or for any other legitimate purpose including visits to the infirmary (medical room); will sign out with the receptionist at the front desk. Students who become ill will report to the office as soon as possible and they must not remain in a washroom or attempt to go home without first checking out at the main office reception desk.

Accidents

In case of injury, the circumstances must be reported immediately to the teacher in charge of the activity or to the office. A written report of the accident will be completed by the teacher or administrator.

Dress Code

The Dress Code is an important and valuable part of our school program. Respect for self is a vital component of our school. The cultural teachings from our Elders continue to validate respect on a daily basis. Respect for self means that we are courteous to ceremony by showing positive behavior in the way we act and the way we dress. Students must wear clothing that is in good taste following our Aboriginal community and school standards. Any exceptions for special school events must be approved by the school administration prior to the event. Students requiring clarification of our requirements are asked to inquire at the office.

Appropriate Dress:

- Slogans that are positive and appropriate for the school setting
- Tops and shirts must come down to cover the top of pants, skirts or shorts
- Skirts and shorts are worn at a length no shorter than the length of a student's index finger above the kneecap
- All items designated as underwear are kept under cover (including when bending down)
- Jewelry is limited and not distracting (e.g. piercing)

Inappropriate Dress:

- Clothing with inappropriate or negative language; symbols that condone or promote drugs, alcohol, sexually suggestive or aggressive behavior or obscene languages or phrases
- Clothing or items that portray "gang colors"
- Blouses or shirts that show the belly button or any other part of the bare stomach/back
- Muscle shirts, halter tops or tank tops. Clothing with shoulder straps of less than students' 3 fingers in width (i.e. Spaghetti strap tops)
- Spiked belts, or heavy bracelets, and necklaces (e.g. Chains)
- See through shirts, skirts, or pants
- Low cut blouses or shirts
- Headgear that consists of hoodies, bandanas, toques, or hats
- Sunglasses or any type
- Pants worn low on the body

Physical Education Dress Requirements:

- All students must change for their physical education classes.
- Physical education clothing includes any of the following: track suits, athletic shorts, sweat pants, T-shirts or sweatshirts. Running shoes are a requirement for every class

When a staff member identifies that a student may be inappropriately dressed, the student will be directed to the office to discuss changes that might be required so that the student may return to class. If necessary, school t-shirts or pants will be supplied for the day to students whose attire is inappropriate. Repeat offenses may result in the student being sent home to change or suspension.

The final determination regarding the inappropriateness of student dress lies with the administration of the school.

The school dress code will be effective throughout the school year.

Cell Phone and Electronic Devices Policy

Cell phones are not to be seen, heard or used in the building.
Students are given a warning regarding use of cell phones and on the second offense the phone will be confiscated and kept until the end of the day.
Further disregarding this policy may result in a suspension from school.
Electronic devices may be used at the discretion of the classroom teacher.
Students are asked to respectfully stop usage when requested.

Smoking Policy

Smoking is not permitted in the school or on school property. Students caught smoking on property may be fined by the police and may also be given a three day suspension.

Drugs and Alcohol

Students shall not be in possession of, or use, or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol at any time in any school related activity. Students will be suspended for violation of this policy and charges may be laid by the police. Trafficking of drugs or alcohol may result in an expulsion from the Academy or the Edmonton Public School District.

Code of Behavior Regarding Academic Honesty

amiskwaciy Academy believes that an academic community depends on academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated as we are preparing young people for future academic careers at post secondary institutions, and they, as well, will not tolerate either of these practices.

Academic Offenses:

- Plagiarism Use of phrases, ideas, images, text, articles without properly citing the source
 Copying in whole or part any work of another student
 Using false doctor's notes, false parent calls or notes to avoid or delay exams
- Cheating Using unauthorized materials in an examination/essay
 Copying another student's work or answers during an exam or allowing others to look or copy your answers.
- Consequences: Zero for the test or assignment
 Suspension
 Possible removal from the course

Student Services and Information

- A Educational Counseling
 -selection of courses
 -program planning for junior/senior high school and beyond
 -graduation requirements

- college or university entrance requirements
- student concerns regarding courses
- study skills and time management skills
- university registration via computer
- B Financial Assistance
 - scholarship and bursary information
 - grants and loans information for high school or college and university
- C Career Counseling
 - explorations of values, interests, abilities and needs
 - establishing career goals
 - exploration of related occupation
- D Personal Counseling
 - confidential discussion of personal concerns
 - stress management
- E Referrals
 - counselors will provide appropriate referral after consultation to another service or agency. Students and parents are encouraged to consult the counselors about academic, social, educational, and personal problems/issues by making an appointment with Student Services.

Awards

Each year amiskwaciy celebrates the success of its students with an Awards Celebration. Awards are given for the following:

- Academics
- Attendance
- Citizenship

Student Activities

Student Union: Students are encouraged to become active in the life of the student body which includes planning fun and educational activities for all students. Students should monitor the daily bulletin and listen to announcements to learn more about activities, times and locations.

Athletics

The amiskwaciy Academy Athletic Program is intended to be fun, safe and meaningful. It is our goal to present sports in a manner that promotes a positive learning experience for the individual. We wish to promote the development of physical skills, attitudes such as self-discipline, perseverance and cooperation, leadership skills, and other social skills that carry over into daily living. Students who attend amiskwaciy are eligible to try out for both amiskwaciy and Ross Sheppard School teams, as enrolment numbers may not enable us to field a team in all sports. Team size is restricted to the regulations of the particular league.

GRADUATION CRITERIA

Students must meet with following criteria in order to participate in the amiskwaciy Academy Graduation commencement ceremony:

- Have 80% attendance and punctuality in the graduation year
- Have a minimum of 80 credits earned by the end of semester one and be lined up to complete all requirements at the end of the grade 12 year.
- Have a minimum of 2 courses for semester two. (The exception would be those students who have completed all requirements for the diploma).
- Have not withdrawn from any course in semester two.
- Have no outstanding fees or books.
- Have paid the graduation fees.

Note: We will make every effort to support and provide opportunities for our students to meet the graduation criteria.

STUDENT FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Lost and Found

This service is provided by the General Office.

Lockers

School lockers are the property of the Edmonton Public Schools and can be opened and searched at any time by an administrator or agent of the Board without notice. Acceptance on the part of the student of a locker is acknowledgement of this privilege retained by the district to examine the contents of that locker whenever is determined appropriate. Lockers are assigned at the beginning of each year. The school does not assume responsibility for items lost or stolen from the lockers. Students are advised not to reveal their lock combination or to place valuables in their lockers.

Telephones

There is a telephone in the main foyer of the school. Students are asked to request permission for use by the person at the main desk.

Student Photographs

Student photographs will be taken at registration. All students are expected to have their pictures taken for I.D. cards and yearbooks. Grade 12 graduation photos will be taken later in the year. Students are required to carry their ID at all times. Students who have lost their ID cards should notify administration immediately. Replacement photos are \$5.00 each.

Newsletters

Newsletters are made available to parents informing them of school activities and events.