

Abbotsford Traditional School

Parent Handbook 2022-2023

2272 Windsor Street, Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 6M1

Telephone: (604) 850-3511 Fax: (604) 850-7692

Website: <http://ATMS.abbyschools.ca>

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR

On behalf of all of us at ATS I am happy to welcome you to another school year. We are an energetic staff that enjoys working with adolescents, knows how to involve families, and strives to set high levels of achievement while making school engaging. Our hope is to be innovative in a traditional, conservative and safe setting. We especially greet those students who are new to ATS this year. We are pleased to have you and your parents in our learning community. You are in good hands at ATS.

What is a "traditional education" you may ask? Put simply we offer a structured, predictable environment where there are fewer distractions to instruction. There is a clear Code of Conduct (pg. 14) that ensures consistency of expectations across all classrooms. At the same time, we are clear about the positive behaviours we expect of our students.

Our teachers have high expectations for student behaviour and model courtesy themselves. Added to all of this, I believe that our student uniform and closed campus policy make ATS one of the safest schools in the district. Students remain on site for the entire day and are instantly recognizable because they always wear our crest.

As a school of choice we expect and have come to appreciate the support and investment of the parent community in the values and practices of the traditional school. "Parents as partners" is one of the ten tenets of traditional education. As a founding principle, it is very important that parents be involved at our school in whatever ways are possible.

If direct participation at school is not possible it is our hope and expectation that parents will support their children at home by ensuring that home studies are complete and they are reading. Please take the time to read through this handbook with your child. It is important to understand the basic elements of Abbotsford Traditional School.

On Thursday, September 1st from 8:30 am until 11:30 am we will be having our Grade 6 Student Orientation. Invitations will be sent out during the summer. This is a good opportunity for Grade 6 students to make new friends, meet the Grade 8 Web Leaders who will be their buddies during the year.

September 6th is our first day of school. Students should check the main entrances doors for the name of their teachers and homeroom classes. Homeroom lists will be posted on Friday, September 2nd at 4:00 p.m. Grade 8 students are to line up outside the main front doors and Grade 7 students are to line up in the same place as last year. ONLY grade 6 students should enter the building on the first day and go into the multipurpose room, located to the right as soon as you enter the main doors. Teachers will greet students at 8:23 am and lead the way to the classrooms. There will also be a question and answer session during this time.

Thank you for choosing Abbotsford Traditional School and welcome to the 2022-2023 school year!

Mr. Reg Gabriel

The proud Principal,

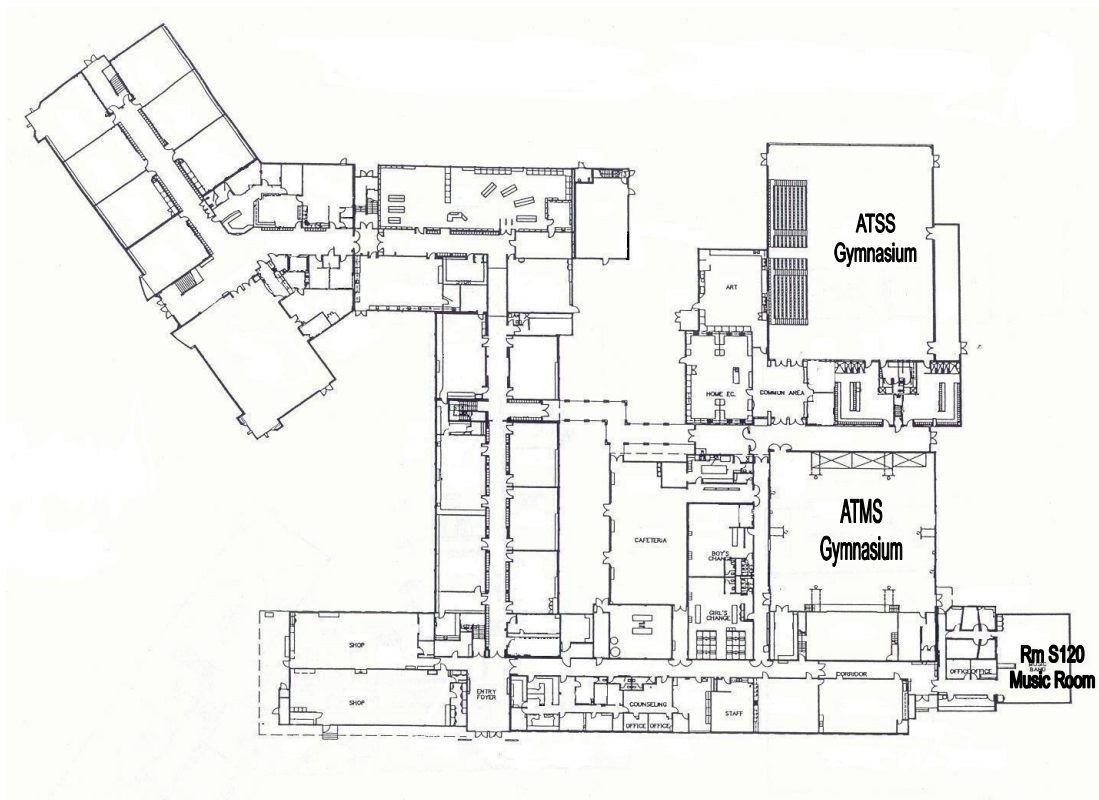
Abbotsford Traditional School

Keys For Success

There are many things that students can do to achieve success, and to have a rewarding and happy school year. Students are encouraged to:

- Get involved in special activities.
- Always do your best - be organized, and use your time and agenda wisely.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Attend classes on time and be prepared.
- Complete homework assignments carefully and on time.
- Respect other people and expect them to respect you in return.
- Respect school property, the environment, and others' property.
- Be committed to making this the best year you have had at school.
- Follow our ATS Student Courtesy Code as well as classroom/district rules.
- Smile and make new friends!

ATS School Map



Homework

Homework is an important part of each student's academic program and is assigned for any of several reasons:

- to complete work not completed in class
- to complete a long-term project
- to provide extra practice
- to serve as preparation for future lessons
- to check student's understanding of items covered in class
- to reinforce material that was taught in class

Reports & Letter Grades


Formal report cards are issued three times a year - before the winter break, before the spring break, and at the end of the year. At other times during the year, interim reports may be issued at the discretion of individual teachers.

Report cards are sent home to inform the parents and students of the level of achievement for the term using the scale outlined on the report card. There are four essential components of a competency-based reporting system:

- Curricular Competency Learning Standards describe what a student is able to do
- Big Ideas is what students understand
- Content Standards is what students know

The reporting tool (report card) allows a teacher to communicate accurately a student's progress toward meeting competencies throughout the school year. Students are assessed on what they can do, not what they know.

For more on BC's redesigned curriculum, please visit this website: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>

Proficiency Scale				
	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent-Teacher interviews are scheduled in conjunction with the first report card. Other appointments can also be set up at any time by contacting your teacher.

Uniform Dress Code Policy

At ATS, our school has an established student uniform. Adhering to the Student Dress Code is one of the defining characteristics of the Traditional School Model. We believe promoting the use of the student uniform is important for the following reason:

Student uniforms provide for a safe and orderly environment where our students are easily identifiable and behave to a higher standard.

ATS has high academic expectations; students are expected to work with maximum effort. Dressing daily in the school uniform is symbolic of our commitment to a professional learning environment.

Students deserve to have a learning environment where others judge them by the content of their character, their ideas and their actions – not by what they wear. Uniforms provide an even playing field for all students and reduce bullying.

Wearing school-crested clothing fosters a sense of belonging and builds confidence and pride in our community.

The following points indicate expectations of student attire at Abbotsford Traditional School and at school sponsored activities either on-or-off campus:

- Non-uniform jackets, 'hoodies' and other items should be removed upon entry to the school and stored in lockers during school hours.
- Hats and sunglasses must not be worn inside the school at anytime.
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times when in the building, except in PE class.
- Sweatpants, yoga pants, jeans, jeggings, leggings and tights are not permitted.
- Female students are permitted to wear tights, leggings and/or nylons to the ankle accompanied with a skirt as long as they are in school colours (blue, grey, white or combination)
- Students are required to follow safety/health regulations in regards to grooming and footwear in Shop and Home Ec. Lab. Hair must be tied back and closed toe shoes worn.
- Skirts will be knee length.
- For extra-curricular events (e.g. Musical performances & Sporting events) students are required to wear a tie, upon teacher/coach request.
- All students are required to wear ATS PE strip with clean non-marking Gym shoes for PE classes.
- With the exception of plain white polos or blouses, all items should be logoed with the ATS crest.
- Body Art/Piercing and hairstyle should reflect our conservative climate.

The responsibility of adhering to our school's dress code rests with the entire community. Students who do not meet the dress code requirements will be asked to dress appropriately or supplied with an

immediate change of clothing (when available). Parents will be notified when chronic uniform infractions occur. The school attempts to collaborate with families and understands the student dress code should not prevent regular attendance. However, failure to consistently meet dress code expectations is a disciplinary infraction and may result in family/guardian being contacted and the student being sent home. Please see the next page for the specific Dress Code. Any questions/concerns regarding appropriate student dress should be referred directly to the school principal.

Uniform Dress Code Requirements

BOYS AND GIRLS

- Plain, white golf/polo shirt - long or short sleeve
- Plain, white dress shirt/blouse - long or short sleeve with white or natural buttons.
- Plain, white turtleneck - long sleeve
- Grey, crested polo shirt - short sleeve
- Oxford grey crested sweatshirt - crew neck, ribbed cuffs/waist
- Dark navy dress pants - fly front, cotton, poly/cotton or corduroy
- Dark navy dress shorts - fly front, cotton, poly/cotton
- GYM STRIP - navy gym shorts, grey T-shirt, navy sweatpants (all with logo)
- Activity jacket – Blue front full zip with coloured Crest. Extra embroidery (team/name) available for an additional cost.

GIRLS

- Dark navy skirt - A-line, or box pleat at the front, knee length, cotton or poly/cotton (excluding stretch fabrics)
- Dark navy skirt

Uniform Supplier Information

Able Cresting
#102-31281 Wheel Avenue
Phone: 604-864-9728
www.ablecresting.com
Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

ATS SCHOOL PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is one of the keys to success. Students are expected to be present each day during school hours. If for any reason your son/daughter will be absent from school, please enter the absence through the Safe Arrival app. Information about this app and how to use it can be found at <http://abbyschools.ca/safe-arrival>

Late arrivals are unfair interruptions for the class. Students are expected to be present and punctual for all classes. If a student is late, he/she must check in at the school office, pick up a late slip and give the slip to the teacher upon entering the class.

BUSSING - USER PAY

Families that choose to bus their children to school need to register for bussing and pay for that option through the school district. To contact the Transportation Department regarding bussing you can email school.bus@abbyschools.ca or go to <https://facilities.abbyschools.ca/departments/transportation>

The User Pay busses drop off and pick up at the entrance of ATSS. Busses will leave promptly at the designated times. If your child misses the bus, they may use the phone at the ATS office.

INTERNET USE AT SCHOOL

Parent/Student Agreements forms are located on our website. These must be returned before students will be allowed to access the internet at school.

**Use of the school's computer system is neither private nor confidential and will be monitored. School network administrators reserve the right to access and remove files on the system.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Throughout the year we have Emergency drills so that staff and students will be prepared in the event of an emergency. Our Emergency Drills include practicing procedures for Fire, Earthquake, Intruder Alerts and Evacuation.

INJURIES AND MEDICAL NEEDS

Minor injuries happen on a daily basis. Band-aids are available at the office.

If a student has been seriously injured, it should be reported to a teacher or supervisor and the student brought to the office medical room. A First Aid Attendant is available at all times.

When a student is ill at school, provisions will be made for him/her to lie down in the medical room until he/she feels better or until a parent arrives.

Parents or Emergency Contacts will be called in the event of a serious injury. Should the student require immediate medical attention and the parent or contact is not available, 911 will be called. In a life-threatening situation, 911 will be called immediately.

Parents are asked to inform the school should their student have a contagious illness.

If your student has a chronic health concern, please see the office. We have a safe place for necessary medications and a booklet to record procedures to keep your child safe.

LOCKS AND LOCKERS

Lockers are the property of the school and the school administration reserves the right to open and search lockers for issues relating to school safety and security. Unsafe or dangerous items should never come to school and must never be put in a school locker. It is a privilege to have a locker, and it is the student's responsibility to take care of their locker. Lockers are not to be damaged or defaced in any way. Students must use their assigned lockers.

Locks are supplied by the school and are required. Students are not to share their combination with others. If a student forgets the lock combination they can ask at the office. Lost locks are subject to a \$10 fee for any replacements or exchanges. Each student is responsible for the lock he/she received at the beginning of the year.

LOST AND FOUND

All personal possessions including clothing, footwear, stationery, and books should be clearly labeled. Items should be secured in student lockers when not in use.

The school will not be responsible for lost money, jewelry, or personal possessions. Students should not bring valuable items to school unless a teacher specifically requests them.

A lost and found box is located in the MPR. Students should check for lost articles on a regular basis.

NOON HOUR EXPECTATIONS

Students are to be in their Homeroom classes during the eating period.

Before leaving the classroom, students need to make sure the room is tidy and all garbage has been picked up.

Students are expected to return all borrowed equipment.

Students are asked to keep away from parked cars and bike racks.

Students are to line up before entering the building.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.)

P.E. is part of the school curriculum. All students are expected to participate. Logoed P.E. strip should be brought for all P.E. classes. Parents please ensure P.E. strip is brought home and washed frequently. Students need to bring a lock from home to secure personal items in change room lockers during gym class. These locks must be removed after every gym class. Locks that are left on change room lockers will be cut off.

STUDENT PICK UP

Parents need to come into the school to sign out their students in the middle of the day. At the end of the day, parents are asked to arrange for prompt pick up after school. Student who are waiting past 3:00 pm are asked wait outside the front door for their ride.

SUPERVISION

Teachers provide supervision for students during the following times:

8:16 - 8:23am before school

2:38 - 2:50pm after school

All before and after school activities will be arranged and supervised by individual staff members.

Our paid lunch time supervisors assist with monitoring students at lunch time. They monitor classrooms during the eating period, and supervise outside during activity time. They are there to ensure the safety of the students and also help to resolve any problems and students are expected to respect the authority of our Noonhour Supervisors.

TELEPHONE/CELL PHONE USE

Telephones at the school are used for school business and incoming messages. Students may use the office telephone after asking permission. After school activities should be prearranged so the student does not have to phone. Cell phones must remain turned off and in lockers when on campus.

TEXTBOOKS AND LIBRARY

Students are issued the textbooks they will need for the year at no cost. Students will be billed for any lost or damaged books from the Library or for textbooks that are not returned in the same condition, issued by their classroom teachers.

Optional workbooks may need to be purchased, if a workbook is purchased your son/daughter can keep it.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

All visitors MUST report to the office to identify themselves to the office staff.

Visitors to our school will be identified by a visitor's tag.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICY

PHILOSOPHY & PURPOSE

Our goal is to work together with students and parents to provide the safest and most productive learning environment in the district. To help us do this, we need to have a clear code of conduct that our students understand.

We believe school-based discipline interventions should:

- show students what they have done wrong,
- show students how they are responsible for their actions,
- show students that there are consequences,
- show students that they can create solutions,

- keep students' dignity intact,
- encourage the development of positive social skills through active modeling by staff

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

You have the RIGHT to hear and be heard. It is your RESPONSIBILITY to listen and not interrupt those who are speaking.

You have the RIGHT to learn. It is your RESPONSIBILITY to be on time, be prepared, listen to instructions, do assigned work, and work in a way that does not infringe upon the learning of others.

You have the RIGHT to be respected and supported. It is your RESPONSIBILITY to respect and support others, and to avoid humiliating or belittling others, even if your intent is humour.

You have the RIGHT to be safe. It is your RESPONSIBILITY to treat others in a way that does not hurt them, or cause them to be afraid.

You have the RIGHT to privacy and to your own personal space. It is your RESPONSIBILITY to respect the property of others and to accept their right of privacy.

As a member of society it is your RESPONSIBILITY to exercise your RIGHTS. It is up to you not to allow your rights or the rights of others to be threatened. If you cannot do something, you must tell a responsible adult of the situation.

You have the RESPONSIBILITY to become knowledgeable about and assume responsibility for conducting yourself within this code of conduct – it is how we do things at ATS.

ATS CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

All students are subject to the rules of the school while on the school premises, in going to and returning from school, and at all school sponsored games and functions, whenever and wherever they are held.

The following are some of the major rules. Since all rules cannot be stated, students are expected to use their common sense

PLEASE:

- be respectful to everyone you meet.
- know and follow the STUDENT COURTESY CODE.
- dress appropriately. Shirts are to remain tucked in at all times in the building.
- follow the instructions of the administrative and teaching staff, and the lunchtime supervisors.
- attend school daily unless you have permission to be excused.
- bring all the necessary material to class.
- seek excellence (give 100% to all you do).
- eat your lunch in your homeroom. Food or drink is NOT permitted in any other areas of the school including the hallways, computer rooms, library, or gymnasium.
- PLEASE:
- do NOT use inappropriate or offensive language.
- do NOT physically or verbally abuse, harm, or threaten others.
- do NOT disobey a staff member, volunteer, noon hour supervisor, or visitor.

- do NOT be disruptive in your class or in the school.
- do NOT copy other people's work or cheat on tests or assignments.
- do NOT leave the school campus at any time during the school day unless you have written permission from your parents or guardians.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

CONSEQUENCES

ATS ensures that students receive corrective action in a timely, judicious and responsible manner. Methodology for addressing disciplinary infraction when they arise should conform to the value statements outlined in our Code of Conduct Philosophy.

ATS has a Behaviour Response Plan that categorizes behaviours into three Levels:

Level I Behaviours are considered minor rule violations and are dealt with by teachers at the class level.

Level II Behaviours are defined as chronic behaviours that require collaborative intervention of staff, administration and parents.

Level III Behaviours are serious infractions that require immediate referral to the office. For a complete list of these behaviours, please refer to the ATS Behaviour Management Protocols & Teacher Resource Booklet.

LEVEL III BEHAVIORS

SERIOUS OFFENCES (ZERO TOLERANCE):

Traditional Schooling requires staff and students to uphold the highest standards of conduct. Our goal is that, through mutual respect and order, both teachers and students can maximize their efforts in the classroom. There is "zero tolerance" for the following behaviours.

These offences include, but are not limited to:

- inappropriate or offensive language,
- physical violence or verbal threats,
- willful disobedience or defiance,
- damage to school property or the property of others,
- using or taking the property of others without permission,
- leaving the school property without permission,
- causing a false fire alarm
- academic misconduct (cheating, copying or plagiarism).

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM POLICY:

Plagiarism is a form of stealing. It usually involves taking someone else's ideas or work and claiming it as your own. This includes the following:

- Copying ideas, phrases, sentences or paragraphs from books, the internet or any other source without giving credit to the author.
- Paraphrasing: This is when a student uses ideas, which are not his/her own, and simply changes an occasional word or the order of a sentence.
- Submitting work from parents or other students: although we encourage parent involvement, students should not hand in work which has any portion written by parents, or other family members.
- Using photographs, charts, statistics, figures, numerical data or any other visual source without giving the source of the information in the assignment.
- CONSEQUENCES:
- 1st Incident – parent notified by teacher, teacher assigned discipline, referral to office
- 2nd Incident – parent notified, referral to office, recorded in permanent record, warning of suspension issued
- 3rd Incident – parent notified, suspension.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

ATS faculty and administration pride themselves on a collaborative working relationship with parents where problems are identified early and information is constantly shared to ensure best strategies are followed in the support of children's learning needs. This spirit permeates our intentions in regards to communicating disciplinary events to our parents.

Where Level III Behaviours have taken place our expectation is immediate communication with all members related directly to the care of the student. This includes teachers, principals and parents or guardians. Teachers/principals typically attempt to contact families directly involved or affected by disciplinary events within 24 hours if immediate contact is not possible. Parents are expected to be proactive communicators and contact the school whenever they have concerns regarding their child's safety at school. When in doubt, we share information and collaborate in our efforts to aid students.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCESS

- Step 1 - Start with the person whose action has given rise to the concerns or problem. This is the person who can best address your concern.
- Step 2 - If you need further assistance with your concern, your principal / vice-principal is there to help.
- Step 3 - If you feel your concerns are not resolved, contact an Assistant Superintendent at 604-859-4891.
- Step 4 - If a decision of a District Administrator significantly affects the education, health or safety of a student, the student and/or parent may appeal in writing to the Board of Education.

To build a positive relationship with your school...

- meet the staff early in the school year;
- be informed about your child's class and school activities;
- send a note or make a call to recognize a job well done;
- be involved in your school's PAC;
- be willing to listen and learn;
- remember that both you and school staff are interested in your child's success.

WHAT NOT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

For student safety and to avoid any possible theft or damage to personal property, we ask the following items not be brought to our campus:

- Valuables such as jewelry or large amounts of money.
- Your own sports equipment
- Electronic devices (ipods, portable DVD players, cell phones, etc.) – The new BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program at SD 34 allows students to register one (1) device with the district. The use of these devices will be monitored.
- Gum
- Rollerblades

ATS STUDENT COURTESY CODE

INTRODUCTION:

The education of ATS students is marked by a deliberate effort on behalf of the community to foster certain social graces. We believe that teaching students to be polite, respectful and concerned for others are worthwhile endeavours essential to the complete education of children. Social skills that allow students to flourish by working well with others, while maintaining a culture of mutual respect and civic responsibility are important life skills.

Expectations:

Staff and students are encouraged to promote the following behaviours as overt manifestations of our school's intention to teach positive social behaviours:

Common Courtesies:

- Holds doors open for others when every possible.
- Uses "please" when making requests and "thank you" after have received assistance.
- Says, "Excuse Me?" or "Pardon Me?" – not "What?" when they haven't heard a message.
- Covers mouth while coughing, sneezing or yawning.
- Does not spit or chew gum on campus.
- Respects others who are waiting by proceeding to the back of the line.

- Personal Care:
- Uses respectful language at all times.
- Washes hands after having used the washroom.
- Eats a balanced diet.
- Adheres to dress code guidelines – no hats, branded wear & shirts tucked in.
- All clothing is clean and in good repair.
- Dresses appropriately according to the weather conditions.
- Keeps an organized and clean locker.
- Meeting and Speaking To Others:
- Makes a point to greet others and responds appropriately to greetings.
- Greets others cheerfully and inquires as to their well-being before making requests
- Upon making formal introductions – shakes hands with confidence and introduces themselves appropriately.
- Speaks clearly to others and looks them in the eye while speaking.
- Stands and greets classroom guests during formal visits.
- Waits politely for conversation to end before engaging in dialogue.
- Asks permission to use the office telephone.
- Treatment of Others:
- Is aware of the affect words can have on self and others and attempt to speak with kindness.
- Knows when and how to say, “I’m sorry” in order to make peace with those who have been negatively affected by one’s actions.
- Attempts to be inclusive and not purposefully exclude others.
- Is able to share with others appropriately.
- Is able to take turns and show patience while waiting for assistance.
- Is tolerant of differing views
- Is able to resolve conflict without resorting to verbal or physical violence.
- Reports an inappropriate behaviour to an adult.

In Common Areas:

- Shares the hallways and promotes ease of movement by staying right and keeping entrance ways clear.
- Keeps backpacks and other materials out of common walkways.
- Lines up single file to enter the building and/or classes when instructed by supervisors.
- Proceeds safely and quietly through hallways to prevent disruptions to classes.
- Cleans up messes and picks up garbage even if it’s not theirs.
- Is mindful of safety while in play areas and makes choices that protect self and others.
- Attempts to recycle paper and beverage containers.
- Returns borrowed equipment in the same condition and leaves it organized.
- In The Classroom:
- Raises hand to speak and stands to share information so that they can be heard.
- Waits for silence before speaking and helps to keep classes quiet while others are speaking so they can be heard.
- Arrives to class on-time, with all needed materials and keeps them organized.

- Reports directly to the office upon late arrival before proceeding to class.
- Uses the Student Agenda to keep track of important dates and track homework assignments.
- Ipods, MP3 players and cell phones can only be used before or after school.

TEN TENETS OF TRADITIONAL

- A safe environment
- Parents as partners
- A dress code
- A clearly defined code of behavior
- Teacher directed instruction
- A strong focus on academic achievement
- Consistent structured approach that maximizes class time
- Regular skills assessment
- An emphasis on solid literacy skills
- A regular homework policy

WHAT YOU MAY EXPECT TO SEE

ATS KEY VISUALS

1. Students line up at designated locations outside the school at the beginning of the day. Students are expected to dress appropriately for outdoor morning line up. (e.g. Carrying umbrellas, with jackets on, etc.).
2. Students proceed quietly in the hallways between classes to minimize disruptions in classrooms that are not in transition. This includes transitions to and from the Gymnasium.
3. Students wear clothing in compliance with our school dress code.
4. Students stand to greet adults who formally enter the classroom.
5. Good manners are expected at all times. (e.g. holding doors open for others, not interrupting people who are talking, using proper language at all times including “please” and “thank you”, etc.) Please see our ATS Student Courtesy Code for more specific items.

ATS EXPECTATIONS

1. Students will arrive to school in dress code, and remain in dress code until they have left the premises. Sabres logoed gym strip will only be worn in PE class, and as agreed by coaches for team practices, Intramurals, etc.
2. Healthy competition is encouraged. Honour and Effort Roll, District competitions in academics and athletics will be encouraged and supported by staff, parents and teachers.
3. Students are expected to complete their homework daily. Expect about 10 minutes per grade level (i.e., students in grade 6 should expect about 60 minutes per day; students in grade 7 should expect about 70 minutes per day; students in grade 8 should expect about 80 minutes

per day.) Classroom teachers' homework policy must be supported by parents and students alike.

4. Students may expect advanced coursework once mastery of regular work has been demonstrated.
5. Students are expected to engage in various opportunities for leadership and/or service to the school and the community (e.g. Fundraisers, leadership events, involvement and/or response to community events, and other school-wide opportunities).

CLASS LOOPING AT ATS

WHAT IS LOOPING?

"Looping" is a simple concept: a teacher moves with his or her students to the next grade level, rather than sending them to another teacher at the end of the school year. At the end of a "loop" of two years, the teacher begins the cycle again with a new group of students. At ATS, students and teachers in grades 6 and 7 will loop beginning next year. This means that your child will continue with their current Gr. 6 teacher.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF LOOPING?

Teachers and students in looping classes need not start from scratch every fall, learning new sets of names and personalities, establishing classroom rules and expectations. Most teachers find that students remain on task far longer at the end of the first year; accordingly, teachers estimate that they gain a significant amount of learning time at the start of the second year.

Spending several years with a class enables teachers to accumulate more in-depth knowledge of students' personalities, learning styles, strengths, and weaknesses. This longer contact reduces time spent on diagnosis and facilitates more effective instruction. It also helps teachers build better relationships with students and parents. Looping has been found to greatly assist teachers in their efforts to address student learning difficulties overtime.

For students, having the same teacher and classmates for two years provides stability and builds a sense of community. Looping reduces anxiety and increases confidence for many children, enabling them to blossom both socially and as learners.

PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in being a parent volunteer for any of these events or require more information, please contact the office at 604-850-3511 or the PAC at atmspac@gmail.com

- PAC participation on the executive and as general members.
- Throughout the year we will need supervision at fieldtrips and some school-wide events.
- Orientation day and tour guides needed on occasion.

- Crossing guard duty at our school's front entrance in the mornings.
- Start up a club during Flex Block. Parents can offer cooking, craft, or any other noon-hour activity that they have an area of interest in to share with the kids.
- Help out in the Library.
- Help out in a classroom (subject specific or in general).
- Assist nurses with immunizations.
- Scholastic book fair volunteers needed at lunch and after school.
- Set up/help with the Remembrance Day assembly.
- Scholastic book fair volunteers needed at lunch and after school.
- Christmas decorating in the school.
- Parent reading/math helpers in LA room.
- Helpers for ATS Track and Field event day - finish line judges, grandstand supervisors, group trackers, etc..
- Grade 8 Camp chaperones. (pending on district approval).
- Grade 8 year end event organizers. (set up, clean up, decorate, etc.).
- Noon-hour supervisors - full time positions. Preference will be given to those available 5 days a week every lunch hour.
- School-wide fundraising.
- Special event coordinators and helpers for phoning when special events arise.
- Coach a sports team. We can always use your athletic expertise to help out our teams.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNSEL

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is your parent community at Abbotsford Traditional School. It is hoped that our parent community will work closely with administration and staff to support, encourage, and provide assistance to enhance the quality of education and the well being for all students at Abbotsford Traditional School. For more information, please contact the PAC Executive at atmspac@gmail.com.

PAC EXECUTIVE

Chairperson: Baljit Sangha

Vice-Chairperson: Karm Mahal

Secretary: Rupinder Sidhu

Treasurer: Pawan Dhillon

DPAC: Jas Badesha

Members at large: Sukhjinder Brar, Mandy Aujla, Sharanjit Sandhra, Gurjeet Sohal