



Adam Robertson
Elementary



WELCOME TO ARES FAMILY HANDBOOK

A GUIDE TO HELP YOU
BECOME CONNECTED TO OUR
SCHOOL COMMUNITY

2026 -2027



OUR FOUNDATION

The Circle of Courage

At ARES, we're proud to build our school culture around the Circle of Courage—a model of youth empowerment and resilience based on the work of Brendtro, Brokenleg, and Van Bockern in *Reclaiming Youth at Risk* (1990). Rooted in Indigenous wisdom, this model highlights four essential needs for healthy development: Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity.

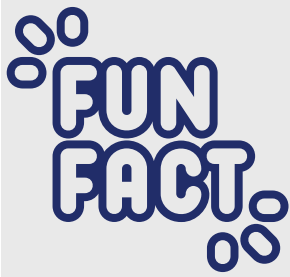
We believe that when students feel a sense of Belonging, they feel safe, valued, and ready to grow. As that foundation strengthens, they begin to develop Mastery and Independence, and from this confidence, Generosity naturally follows.

Throughout the year, you'll see many activities designed to help students, staff, and families feel connected. When adults feel like they belong, they can better support students to thrive—creating a kind, caring, and courageous school community for all.

School Goal

To actively incorporate the Circle of Courage philosophy and the four universal needs of all children (*Belonging, Independence, Generosity, & Mastery*) into our school-wide culture.





ARES

308 Students

13 Classrooms (Grades K-7)

30 Staff Members



What to Bring to School

- Indoor running shoes (Easy-on/off styles for younger students)
- Reusable water bottle (Refill stations available)
- Change of clothes for primary students (pants, shirt, underwear, socks in a separate bag)
- Healthy lunch & snack in litter-free containers



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Supplies will be provided by the school. The **\$45.00** fee can be paid online through our website, at the office, or to classroom teachers. (Cheques payable to ARES)

SUPERVISION

Morning Supervision starts at **8:20**. Please do not send students to school before this time, so that we can ensure their safety.

BELL SCHEDULE

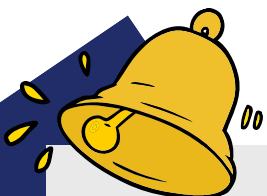
Welcome Bell 8:45

RECESS 10:45 - 11:00

LUNCH Eating Time 12:00 - 12:15

LUNCH RECESS 12:15 - 12:45

End of Day Dismissal 2:45





BUSING

Bus Registration

Don't forget to register if your child will be riding the bus.

sd8.bc.ca/busregistration

*****The last bus leaves ARES around 3:05*****



School Website

ares.sd8.bc.ca

Our school website is filled with valuable information to keep you well-informed about our school community. Please take some time to browse through all of the sections.

Monthly Newsletter

At the end of each month we will email you our website link, where you will find our school newsletter.

Please stay connected with the amazing things that happen at ARES.



ares.sd8.bc.ca

Absences

Please report absences or late arrivals using:

- SchoolMessenger SafeArrival app
- Email
- Phone
- Online form

If we don't hear from you, Ms. Liane will call to ensure your child is safe.

Reporting absences in advance saves Ms. Liane valuable time. Thank you!

**SCHOL MESSENGER SAFE
ARRIVAL APP**

<https://home.schoolmessenger.ca>

PHONE

250-428-2051

E-MAIL

clerical.ares@sd8.bc.ca

ONLINE FORM

ares.sd8.bc.ca





Meal Programs

Breakfast Program



- Our amazing PAC (Parent Advisory Council) serves breakfast daily in the gym starting at 8:25 AM.
- All students are welcome to grab a snack or meal, then head outside to visit or play until the bell at 8:45 AM.
- The menu changes daily and may include: Smoothies, fruit, muffins, milk, scrambled eggs, cereal, oatmeal, grilled cheese, or pancakes.
- It's a peaceful, social way for students to start their day!
- Want to help? PAC is always looking for volunteers—let us know if you'd like to get involved!

PAC HOT LUNCHES

PAC will send out information for Hot Lunches, that all students have the option to sign up for. The cost for these lunches vary depending on the menu.



DAILY BAG LUNCH



Our Feeding Futures program is another option if you find your family struggling to provide daily lunches for your children.

Please reach out if you would like us to add them to our list and we can ensure they receive a healthy lunch each day.

Snack Counter

We have a snack counter located outside the office. Students can help themselves to healthy options such as fresh fruit, granola bars, fruit leather, dry cereal, yogurt, and cheese. We will guide students to use the station responsibly—taking appropriate portions, being mindful of others, and keeping the area clean.



PAC

Our **Parent Advisory Council** meets monthly and ALL parents are welcome to attend these meetings.

PAC is a crucial part of our school community. They support our meal programs as well as fundraise for field trips and schoolwide activities. This devoted group also provides input and ideas to support the overall well-being of our school.

We would LOVE for you to be a part of this dynamic team.

AdamRobertson.PAC@gmail.com

Breakfast Program Funding



Our Breakfast Program is funded through grants, sponsorship, and donations. To continue offering this free meal to ARES students, we require financial support. If you or your business are willing to donate or sponsor a portion of this worthwhile endeavor, please reach out to PAC at:



AdamRobertson.PAC@gmail.com



Lost & Found



We display all Lost & Found items at the top of our hallway ramp, just through the middle doors of the school. Please check this area regularly. Every few months, we donate unclaimed items to Gleaners.



*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

Parents Visiting and Volunteering

Volunteering or Visiting the School?

- Please sign in at the office when you arrive
- To volunteer in any capacity, you must complete both each September:
 - A Criminal Record Check
 - A Volunteer Application
- **CRC Link:**
<https://justice.gov.bc.ca/screening/crrpa/org-access>
- **Access Code:**
PXJW4LNUR8
- **Volunteer Applications:** Pick up at at the ARES Office

Our Staff

Principal - Tanya Christenson
Vice Principal - William Klassen
Kindergarten - Lindsay Miller
Friday Kindergarten - Tina Harms
Kindergarten/Grade 1 - Amanda Smith
Grade 1 - Jen Gardner
Grade 2 - Linda Cote
Grade 2/3- Caroline Vandenberghe
Grade 3/4 - Melissa Feragotti
Grade 3/4 - Lisa Page
Grade 4/5 - Matt Blick
Grade 4/5 - Candace Ivanco
Grade 5/6 - Max Percival
Grade 5/6 - Kate Wood
Grade 6/7 - Heather Vigna
Grade 7 - Danielle Sonntag

Office Administrative Assistant - Liane Studer
Education Assistant - Rhonda Sloss
Education Assistant - Karen Mottl
Education Assistant - Cindy Healey
Education Assistant - Colleen Kuny
Education Assistant - Dora O'Brien
Education Assistant - Jacqui Miller
Teacher Librarian - Carey Klassen
Aboriginal Education Success Teacher -
Danielle Sonntag
Aboriginal Youth & Family Liaison - Josie Fullarton
Custodian - Aaron Bennett
Custodian - Victoria Buckley
Fine Arts Teacher - Reanna Bala
Inclusion Support Teacher - Darci Bysouth
Inclusion Support Teacher - Tracy Walker
Social-Emotional Support Teacher - Darci Bysouth

HELP!

Please reach out to Mrs. Christenson if you have a question or concern regarding your child.

If we are made aware of an issue, we can quickly act and find the best way to make a positive change.

Support

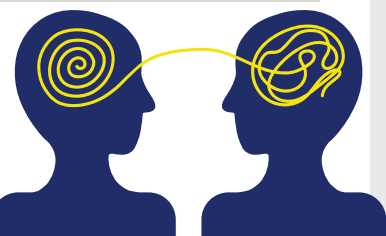


At A.R.E.S. we want to ensure all students feel supported and heard.

If your child is struggling socially, emotionally, or academically, please let us know. If there are friendship concerns, we would like to find a healthy way to address the situation.

If you believe your child requires support, please reach out to Tanya Christenson, Principal, via phone (250- 428-2051) or email:

tanya.christenson@sd8.bc.ca

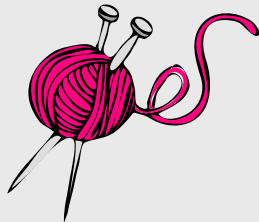


Extra-Curricular Activities

We offer a variety of activities and programs for students to participate in throughout the year. As they move into their intermediate years, the opportunities increase, which enhances their sense of belonging.

Students will learn about these opportunities in the daily announcements, on our Information Board near the entrance of the school, in our school newsletters, through classroom teachers, and through parent emails.

Some of the activities we offer include:



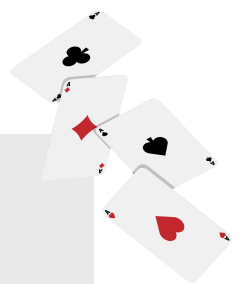
Choir
Chess
Basketball
Volleyball
Art Club
Yoga
Beading
Regalia Making
Knitting Club
Cross Country Running



Our Safe Space

Our library is open daily from 12:15 to 12:45 for students in Grades 4–7. While most students enjoy being outside, the library provides a comfortable, closely supervised indoor space for those who prefer it.

Students can read, play board or card games, draw, paint, build, or play Chess during this technology-free time. It's a place for groups of friends to enjoy activities together, as well as a safe space for individual students to relax and connect with new peers.





Buddies & Community Courage Groups

Each primary class is paired with an intermediate class for regular buddy activities, giving younger students a chance to look up to their older peers while the older students grow as leaders. We also come together in multi-aged Community Courage Groups, where students build connections across all grades through schoolwide activities. These relationships foster **belonging, generosity, independence, and mastery**, while encouraging every student to contribute and lead.



Assemblies

Assemblies are held whenever there is a purpose, such as introducing a schoolwide community activity, celebrating special events, or marking important ceremonies. Families are always welcome to attend, and we share the dates in emails and in the monthly newsletter under Important Dates. On average, we come together for one or two assemblies each month.



Home Routines to Develop Independence

Beginning in Kindergarten, help your child build daily home-school routines to develop responsibility. Encourage them to independently:

- Pack and unpack their backpack
- Keep their backpack in a set spot at home
- Share notices, agendas, and reading bags with family
- Prepare a healthy lunch together with a parent
- Fill their own water bottle
- Dress for the weather and pack needed gear (mitts, toque, etc.)
- Follow a regular bedtime and tech-free evening routine (bath, teeth, reading, etc.)



ARES Vision

To support the development of RESILIENT children who can thrive in any community.

