Welcome to Environmental/Outdoor Ed.

Mr. Locke

Fall 2013-2014

 The grade 8/9 courses will focus on team building and leadership, Outdoor Core, Outdoor Adventure, and Environmental Studies. Throughout the course the students will practice "No trace" outdoor activity, and Outdoor Activity Safety.

This course may include a day hike or other excursion.

**Supplies:**

Students are expected to bring the following to each class:

* duotuang
* Loose leaf paper
* Pencils, eraser, Pens: red and blue/black
* Other materials may be requested throughout the year depending on the unit/assignment **(See additional equip list.)**

**\*Preparation**: A large part of being successful in Outdoor Ed is being prepared each class. Being prepared and organized enables us to do more interesting activities.

**Course Outline:** (the course will follow the program of studies’ Specific outcomes)

**Unit 1:Trip Planning**

* **Clothing and Equipment**
* **Maintaining Body Temperature**
* **Backpacks**
* **Meals/Nutrition**
* **Bear Safety**

**Unit 2: Building Fire & Shelters**

* **Combustion**
* **Fire safety**
* **Emergency Fires**
* **Signal Fires**
* **DIY Stoves**
* **Emergency Shelters**

**Unit 3: Survival**

* **Factors Affecting Survival**
* **Case Studies/Strategies**
* **5 Essentials**
* **Psychology of Survival**

**Unit 4: Alberta Wildlife & Ecology**

* **Animal Safety**
* **Identification**
* **Preservation**
* **Plant identification & uses**

**Possible Activities**: Day Hike, Outdoor Games, Archery, Wall Climbing

**\*Activities will depend largely on student co-operation and preparation as well as budget and supervision.**

This Course will run for approximately 15 weeks (length of 1 term) and some units may only be partially covered. Outdoor activities/trips are dependent on interest, time, availability of resources, weather and the ability and/or maturity of the class.

**\*Just because this course is called Outdoor Ed. do not assume we will always be outdoors. You will be told the beforehand when we will be going outside for an activity or to practice a skill. Dress appropriately.**

**Important Information:**

Students are expected:

1. To show **respect** for: other people in the class/school, themselves, school property, the community and the environment.
2. To attend **all activities** (\*see attached note: **note to parents**)
3. To come to class and outings **prepared.** (\*see attached note: **note to parents**)
4. To submit **all assigned work**.
5. To be responsible for his/her own work/assignments: if you miss an assignment or work, you need to come see me **immediately** for any work/assignments you have missed.

**Waiting to find out what you missed will result in a reduced grade on late assignments and may affect your participation/preparation grade.**

Come see me prior to an absence if you know ahead of time when you will be absent (ex. Dr.’s app’t, excused absence etc.) and arrangements can be made for any assignments or work – I am very reasonable when a student takes the initiative to do this!!!

**Student Evaluation:**

Your mark will be broken down as follows:

Participation 30%

Preparation 30%

 Assignments: 20%

 Quizzes: 20%

 **Final Grade 100%**

If you have any questions during non-school hours, feel free to email me: adam.locke@rdcrs.ca. You may also check my personal website for updates, copies of trip forms etc. by going to the school website

**You can be successful:**

* Be on time and prepared for each class
* Ensure you utilize having an “activity buddy”: this will be required for all outings (buddy system) and can also be used as an extra person to get help from, missed work from etc.
* Don’t be afraid to ask questions: the most important questions are yours. We will learn just as much if not more from answering and exploring the questions you have than the ones off a worksheet.

**Note to Parents**

I am honored to have the opportunity to teach your son / daughter this year.

Your encouragement, support and homework supervision will play an integral part in his / her success.

**Note:**

Environmental/Outdoor Education is a semestered course composed of activity and involvement in orienteering, survival awareness, hiking, environmental awareness and much more. Many of these outings will be fun and great learning experiences.

This course is activity based, and although there will be in class instruction and ongoing assessment, the ultimate learning and assessment will occur during the daily activities. If a student **does not participate** or **is not present to participate** in these activities there will be a substantial loss in the 30% Participation portion of his / her final grade.

If a student does **not comeprepared** (ex. Proper clothing for the weather); marks **will be deducted for Preparedness.** Also, if a student is not prepared with **proper clothing/materials**, he / she may be asked not to participate (due to safety concerns) which will again severely impact his / her grade in the participation portion.

\* Please contact me via phone or email immediately if extenuating circumstances arise.

**Volunteers**: It is essential that I have parent volunteers for the off campus activities. Without parent volunteers I am unable to offer off-campus day trips. Please let me know if you are available to volunteer for any trips. I will confirm trip dates and details soon – letters will be sent home outlining the details and will include a Parent Permission slip.

I appreciate you taking the time to go over this with your son / daughter and again I look forward to teaching your son / daughter in Environmental / Outdoor Ed.

You can check your son / daughter‘s progress in Environmental / Outdoor Ed. throughout the year by contacting me by school phone, by email, or by receiving the regular progress reports sent home throughout the year.

I encourage you to call me at the school if you have any questions or concerns. I will also have my lessons and most of the worksheets available on my website at: [http://mail.rdcrd.ab.ca/~alocke@rdcrd.ab.ca/](http://mail.rdcrd.ab.ca/~mreid%40rdcrd.ab.ca/)

(**Phone: (403) 887-6371 ext. 462)** or email adam.locke@rdcrs.ca.

Additional Equipment List for Pending Dayhike:

* Jacket – appropriate for weather
* Toque
* Gloves/Mitts
* Hiking/ski pants – any type of active pant that is not cotton
* Hiking boots/X trainers/Winter boots for snow activities – depending on weather and activity (key here is to have good footwear and stay relatively dry – no skateshoes)
* Good socks (not cotton) – extra socks
* Daypack – comfortable and proper size for Day hike (waist belt preferred)
* Waterbottles/ Hydration System – Min. 2 litres
* Toiletries – toilet paper, hand sanitizer…
* Bug spray – tick season
* Sunscreen and lip protection
* Sunglasses – optional

This equipment list may be revised once activities and dates are confirmed to better suit specific activities.