

# Siksika Outreach School

## Student/Parent Handbook

Grade 7-12 and  
Young Parent Program (YPP)



P.O Box 1669 Siksika, Alberta T0J 3W0

Phone 403-734-3418

Fax: 403-734-3425

## Table of Contents

### 1. Introduction

- Mission/Vision/Motto/Goals
- Principal's Message
- Prayer
- Beliefs
- School Staff

### 2. Academic Information

- 7 Teaching of our Ancestors/Curriculum
- Siksika Language and Culture
- Biweekly Presentations
- Service Learning
- Circle of Courage
- Program Support
- Alberta Education Core Subjects
- Alberta Education CTS Courses

### 3. Policies and Procedures

- Code of Conduct
- Entry Criteria
- Medical Issues/Emergencies/Safety Policies
- Computer/Technology Usage/Phones/Dress

### 4. Communication

- School Newsletter and Education Newsletter
- School Notices/Weekly Phone Calls
- Parent/Teacher Interviews and Reporting Periods/Appointments
- School Website/School Facebook

### 5. General Information

- Parent Advisory Group
- Siksika Board of Education Staff/Contacts
- School Supplies
- Winter Dress
- Students Recognition/Student Evaluation/Typing
- Bus Conduct/Rules/Student Drivers
- Consent Forms
- Medical Appointments
- Concession
- Reading Guide/Homework and Multiplication Chart
- Learning Suggestions and Math Facts
- Siksika Vocabulary Practice
- Be a Friend of the Earth!

Siksika Board of Education strives to set  
our students on the path to success:

Vision:

Competent, confident and knowledgeable students

Mission:

To provide all students an innovative and excellent learning  
environment

# 1. Introduction

Principal's Message:

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to Siksika Outreach School. We have prepared this information booklet for you in an effort to establish effective communication between home and school. We look forward to working together as we make your children's learning meaningful and filled with rich and challenging experiences. You are always welcome to visit, volunteer, observe and/or join the PAG at the school! We encourage and welcome you to participate in your child's education.

Prayer:**ATSIMOIHKAN****PRAYER**

Ayo Apistokoki	Creator
Ispomokinnaan	Help US
Nahkayistsiyisinaan	To Listen
Nahkaikimotsiyisinaan	To be kind to one another
Nahkayikakimahsinnaan	To try hard
Nahkokamotohsinnaan	To be honest
Nahkawatoyiitaksinnaan	To be spiritual
Ohtokinnann, Apistotoki	Hear us, Creator
Kimmiss kokosiks	Have pity on your children
Iksikimmatapsiya	They are in need
Kaamotanni	Grant us safety
Niistawatsimaani	Help us raise our families
Naapiio'sini	So that they may live long lives

School Mission Statement:

We will strive to **honour** the Seven Teachings of our Ancestors: *wisdom, love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility and truth*. Through this holistic approach, our objective is to develop responsible lifelong learners proud of their identity, language, culture and their own achievements.

School Vision Statement:

To create a respectful learning environment based on the balance of traditional cultural values and academic excellence.

School Motto:

Progress with Purpose (based on the Four Spirits from the Circle of Courage)

School Goals:

- Attract school age students not already in any educational programs or those not functioning in a mainstream school
- **Rekindle the learning spirit** in all students
- Create unique and meaningful **individualized student programs**
- Create **community partnerships** to help support our students
- Help increase successful high school graduation rates on Siksika Nation
- Help students create academic and personal goals
- **Reflect the values of the community we serve**
- **Support young parents in meeting their educational goals**

Siksika Outreach School Believes in (But is not limited to):

- Providing an opportunity for all students to receive a **quality education**
- Reflecting the **Values and Beliefs** of the community in which we serve
- Fostering proactive and **visionary leadership**
- Modeling for students the importance of **lifelong learning, positive attitude and social skills**
- Infusing our program with **Elder's insights** and **Siksika ways of knowing**
- Building learning activities around cultural content relating to the student's experiences, cultural heritage and identity
- Providing positive character learning experiences
- Recognizing the need for **"out of the box"** thinking

Siksika Outreach School Staff

Mr. Bruce Dobbin- Principal

Mrs. Deanna LaFlamme- Teacher

Ms. Lindsey Nelson- Teacher

Ms. Gladys Moberly- Teacher

Mrs. Denise Peterson- Young Parent Program

Mrs. Pearl Healy- Young Parent Program

Stacey Running Rabbit- Lead Teacher (Young Parent Program)

Colleen Sitting Eagle- Language Instructor/Liason

Tannis Wright- FNSSP Assistant

Kendra Rabbit Carrier- Young Parent Program Liaison/Assistant

Dallas Wright- Driver

Gail Poor Eagle- Driver

Shon Stimson- Custodian/Maintenance

# 2. Academic Information



### The Seven Teachings of our Ancestors

The Seven Teachings of our Ancestors will form the anchor of our school program and encourage positive development of character. The Seven Teachings include: wisdom, love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility and truth. Siksika Outreach School will offer individual educational Alberta **curriculum** approved courses. The program will be module based. We will infuse the curriculum with Siksika Ways of Knowing, culturally relevant experiences and elderly insight. **Siksika Language and Culture** will also be offered daily at Siksika Outreach School. Weekly presentations on a variety of curriculum topics will also be scheduled. **Service Learning** projects will be organized where students will learn the value and benefit of serving others. Partnerships with various departments allow us to create Service Learning Projects. Examples include building, cleaning, reading, baking, etc. for elders, disabled and/or those in need. All students will have the opportunity to receive instruction in L.A, Math, Science, Social Studies, P.E. and Health for grades 7-12. Additional core subjects may be available as well as a variety of CTS courses for high school. High school students need to earn 100 credits to be eligible to graduate. **The Circle of Courage** is also used to guide and motivate our personal goal setting.

The four spirits from the Circle of Courage (Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity) form our school motto. Our program emphasizes the values reflected in our community.

### Program Support:

Siksika Outreach School will be offering additional programs in an effort to address student needs as they arise. Support programs may include personal, academic and career counselling, study skills, time management, conflict resolution, anger management, restorative justice, **prenatal care and parenting classes**. Both local and visiting agencies may be used.

Note: Minimum completion rates are required for students enrolled at Siksika Outreach School.

# 3. Policies and Procedures

Code of Conduct:

1. Students are expected to respect themselves, others and their school environment
2. Students are expected to come to school ready to learn
3. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds without Parental Consent
4. Glorifying or participating in smoking, drinking, drugs and other harmful activities is not permitted
5. Students are expected to comply with a "search" if there is any reason to believe a search is necessary

Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct will result in one or more of the following (not necessarily in stated order/sequence):

1. Loss of privileges
2. Phone call to parent
3. Student asked to take a time out (with homework to be completed before re-entry)
4. Meeting set up with parents, Social Worker, Mental Health, Elder, Principal, student and/or Assistant Superintendent
5. Student placed on waiting list for re-entry into Siksika Outreach School

Entry Criteria:

1. Students aged 12-21 years old in grade 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
2. Referral required from School, Home, Health, Justice, Elder, family, etc. All transfers are required to go through the Student Service coordinator at SBE
3. Current young parent caring for their own child (under 18 months old)
4. SOS is not able to accept Special Education, FAS, or significantly delayed students as there are not any programs available for these students. Independent student work is required.

Medical Concerns/Emergencies:

Please inform staff of child's short and long term health and medication. Staff are not able to administer medication and medicine unless written consent is filled at the school. In any event, staff are not responsible/liable for dispensing medication. Sick students are encouraged to stay at home. Please send a note when your child returns to school. Staff will make contact/arrangement with parents if a student becomes sick or has any emergencies during school hours. Parents are asked to keep the school informed of their child's health changes and of course contact information.

Safety Policies:

To maintain a safe learning environment three safety policies exist at SOS:

1. If an evacuation of SOS is required students and staff will go to a safe zone. Old Sun Community College will be our first destination of choice. If the College is unavailable, Siksika West Daycare will be our second choice for a safe destination. Phone calls to all parents will be made upon our arrival at our destination. Please keep your phone lines open and updated so we may successfully reach you.
2. Use School Website for Information on Emergencies, Lockdown, evacuation, alternate transportation.
3. In-school searches may be required from time to time. Searches will only take place if there are reasons to believe there are safety issues (drugs, cigarettes, alcohol, weapons, etc.). Students have the right to refuse a search. If students choose to refuse a search, they will be asked to leave the school grounds. Parent and/or RCMP will be notified upon students refusing a search.

Computer/Technology Usage:

Computers allow online access to endless resources and information. Proper use of computers is expected. Misuse of computers will result in the loss of computer privileges. Educational usage is the sole function of computers within the school. Using computers for any other purpose will be categorized as misuse. In addition, any data usage on personal devices will be the responsibility of the students. The school will not be responsible for the cost of any data usage from personal devices.

Phone Use:

Parents may phone the school at any time. Staff will take messages for students. Student use of the school phone will not be permitted during class time for non-educational purposes Student cell phones must have ringers turned off. If cell phones become a distraction (texting, gaming, etc.) they will be confiscated.

Dress:

All outfits must be respectful of Siksika values, the ?? respect of self and others. Clothes depicting profanity, gangs, drugs, sex, violence, alcohol, etc. will not be permitted. Changing clothes or ??????? will be required.

PDA:

Public displays of affection will not be permitted on school grounds.

# 4. Communication

Several forms of communication will serve as tools to improve Home-School communication.

- School Website
- School Newsletter
- Education Newsletter
- School Notices
- Weekly phone calls
- Parent/Teacher Interviews and Reporting Period
- Parent Appointment
- School posters and signs
- Class/grade parent meetings
- School Facebook page

# 5. General Information

Parent Advisory Group:

Parents and Guardians are invited and encouraged to join the Parent Advisory Group which assists the school in providing programs at the school. Fundraising, assisting in school activities and cultural events and parent presentation are often the highlights of PAG. The objective of the PAG is to help create a positive learning environment.

Siksika Board of Education Staff and Contact Number: (403) 734-4028

??- Superintendent

Lenora Rabbit Carrier- Assistant Superintendent

Lenora Pound Makler- Students Service Coordinator

Amanda White- Administration Assistant

Darren Pietrobono- Finance Manager

Florine Duck Chief- Accounts Clerk/Payroll

Mandi Running Rabbit- Transportation Clerk

LouAnn Solway- Transportation Coordinator

Elsie Back Fat- Benefits Clerk

Dory D.C- O&M Supervisor

Delphine Doore- Secretary/Receptionist

School Supplies:

Students should bring basic school supplies to school. This includes: binder, pencils, erasers, paper and lunch. Occasionally the school may send notices home requesting specific supplies, however, the school will supply the majority of material required.

Winter Dress:

Students should dress appropriately for our ever changing weather. Please check daily forecast with your child. Outside breaks and activities occur daily. Bus Drivers should refuse to pick up students not dressed properly.



### Student Recognition:

We believe students need to be recognized for good behaviour, attendance, attitudes, academic progress, effort, respect and character development. Monthly recognition, year-end awards and Chief and Council awards will occur. Additional recognition will be considered. Successful grade nine students will also have the opportunity for celebration and recognition.

### Grade 12 Graduation:

All students meeting graduation requirements will participate in a graduation ceremony at the end of the school year. All graduating students must participate in fundraising bingo events to take part in the graduation ceremony.

### Student Evaluation:

Students should expect regular testing throughout their academic progress. Module testing is part of all student evaluations. Grade 9 students should also expect to take the Provincial Achievement Test from Alberta Education.

### Typing Tutorials:

All students must participate in daily typing tutorials.

### Bus Conduct/Student Drivers:

Bus transportation is provided for all students. Bus safety is very important. If ongoing misconduct occurs (more than three infraction tickets) student bus privileges may be suspended. In this event parents will be responsible for transportation to and from the school. In addition, if your child misses 3 consecutive days of school the bus will no longer stop for your child until a new request for pick up is made through the Education Transportation office at 734-5220. Student drivers must provide the school with a copy of their driver's license and insurance and must agree not to transport other students while at school.

Consent Forms:

All parents are required to sign a general consent form at time of registration. Specific consent forms will be sent home from time to time requiring additional consent. Each form may be for activities such as fitness run, permission to walk home after school, field trips, permission to leave school grounds during school hours and Services Learning Projects.

Medical Appointments:

School staff will make every effort to accommodate and support student medical appointments for young moms and their babies wherever possible.

Concession:

Students are encouraged to bring their lunch daily. However, we do have a small concession offering basic lunch items and snacks. Please note we do not sell slurpees or allow them on campus.