



Kamloops School of the Arts

1390 - 9th Avenue,
Kamloops, BC V2C 3X5
Phone: (250) 374-3200
Fax: (250) 377-2245

Website: ksa.sd73.bc.ca

Safe Arrival

- call the toll free # 1-844-350-2647 or
- access the following website: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

Principal: Mr. Blair Lloyd
Vice Principal: Ms. Jeanine Traudt

Vision

Kamloops School of the Arts is committed to increasing students' academic success, critical thinking and creativity through research-based, arts driven education.



	Classrooms	Outside	Hallways & Washrooms	Cyberspace	Special Events
S Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone allergy aware • Use school property and spaces properly • Listen & pay attention to the supervisors. • Ask permission to leave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to supervisors • Use equipment appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to announcements • Report unsafe things • Report unsafe behaviours • Use property & materials properly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be kind • Stay on class expected sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands and feet to self • Listen to presenters • Stay with your class • Be polite
T Teamwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include all peers • Set goals & follow through • Be a good listener • Use kind words • Share knowledge & offer helpful ideas • Share 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good sport • Work together to solve conflicts • Be a good role model • Wait your turn • Share • Include others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use facilities quickly/quietly to make space for others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be on task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay with your class • Help if needed • Encourage others • Be kind
A Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be on task • Complete work • Be on time • Try your best • Clean up after yourself • Follow tech & phone rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be kind • Choose peaceful solutions • Use polite, kind language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk on the right • Be quiet during classes • Respect our school property • Wash with soap & flush 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give attention quickly to speaker • Listen carefully • Be ready to learn • Stay with your class
R Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect our school property • Respect others property • Respect others ideas & work • Dress for learning & follow dress Code • Be polite at school • Follow directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat others the way you want them to treat you • Respect differences • Include others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep area tidy & clean • Respect others privacy • Respect other classes & be quiet • Use kind words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect privacy of others • Respect our school equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give full attention to presenters • Show appreciation in polite and respectful manner • Keep quiet & allow other to enjoy

KSA Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct is intended to encourage acceptable student behaviour in order to establish and maintain a safe, respectful and caring learning environment. This code will clarify expectations for student behaviour while at school, while going to and from school, while attending any school function or activity at any location, or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school environment. The Code of Conduct prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's or a group's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family and marital status, age, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation.

1. Acceptable conduct includes the following:

Students are expected to:

- Respect themselves, others, and property.
- Attend school regularly and be punctual for all classes.
- Engage in purposeful learning activities and set high standards for personal achievement.
- Show consideration for diversity: the thoughts, feelings, and heritage of others.
- Use electronic systems in a respectful, responsible, and ethical manner.
- Conduct themselves in a polite, respectful, and co-operative manner.
- Dress in a manner that appropriately reflects a school environment.

2. Unacceptable conduct includes but is not limited to the following:

Students are expected NOT to:

- Engage in behaviours that interfere with the learning of others.
- Engage in behaviours that create unsafe conditions.
- Bully, harass or intimidate others.
- Engage in physical violence.
- Retaliate against a person who has reported incidents.
- Possess, use, or distribute illegal or restricted substances.

- g) Possess or use weapons.
- h) Damage property.
- i) Use personal technology devices, such as cell phones or cameras, during the school day except where expressly authorized.

Students who contravene this Code of Conduct will be subject to progressive discipline, reflective of the age and maturity of the student, any special needs, and the severity and frequency of the unacceptable conduct. The discipline will be fair, consistent, and meaningful, for the purpose of making restitution and enhancing student responsibility and self-discipline. Special considerations may apply to students with special needs if these students are unable to comply with a Code of Conduct due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.

The Board will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation by a person against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a Code of Conduct. School officials will notify parents, school district officials, and other agencies as deemed appropriate for any particular incident.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON) AP 350

Discipline

Kamloops School of the Arts students are expected to conduct themselves in a safe and considerate manner at all times. Problems are dealt with by all staff and volunteer supervisors. A system is in place where teachers and administrators are informed of issues. This system is part of the Positive Behavioural Interventions and Supports (PBIS). When students are having serious or persistent problems, parents are contacted and alternate arrangements for these students may have to be made. Students are expected to demonstrate appropriate behaviour at KSA and while on field trips.

KSA is a Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports School. This means that we follow a specific set of Values which are remembered by using our S.T.A.R. Behavior Matrix. Teachers teach the desired behaviour in the appropriate location. Support staff teach the behaviours too. Initial and minor infractions result in the skills or behaviours being retaught. Further or more severe infractions may be dealt with at the administrative level.



Kamloops School of the Arts Discipline Process

Level	Step	Action
1	1	Reminder to student of expectations (i.e. Ask student to identify the inappropriate behavior and describe the appropriate replacement behavior). Documentation by the teacher.
	2	Consequence for student's actions (apology, detention, etc).
	3	Consequence for student's actions. Documentation by the teacher or CEA. Home contact by the teacher (or documented reasonable attempt to contact).
	4	Move directly to Level 2- step 1
2	1	Referral to administration. Home contact by the administrator. Consequence given for student's actions (Up to one half to 2 days in-school/out of school suspension). Parent/student conference with administration before student returns.
	2	Referral to administration. Home contact by administration. Up to 1-3 days in or out of school suspension. Parent/student conference with administration before student returns.

MINOR INCIDENTS

Attendance Concern
Bike, Roller Blade, Board infraction
Teasing
Bus Misconduct
Cheating/Plagiarism
Disruptive Behaviour
Forgery
Inappropriate Displays of Affection
Hallway Wandering/Misbehavior
In an Unsupervised Area
Inappropriate Dress
Inappropriate Comments
Incomplete Assignments
Lates
Littering
Lying

Profanity
Rough Play
Skip Detention
Skipping
Misuse of Equipment
Technology Offense
Off Grounds without Permission
Uncooperative
Unprepared
Unsafe Play
Inappropriate Vending Machine use
Backpack/purse in class
Agenda misuse
Locker Misuse
Repeated no strip in PE
Noncompliance
Snowballing

MAJOR INCIDENTS

Dangerous Object Possession
Aggressive Behaviour
Attending a Fight
Slandorous Rumors
Contract Violation
Smoking/tobacco use
Bullying
Repeated Minor incidents

Dangerous Behaviour
Instigating a Fight
Theft
Vandalism
Abusive Behaviour
Fighting
Fire Alarm/Fire Related

Dress Code

Kamloops School of the Arts is committed to providing students with learning environments that are safe, equitable and inclusive. Students and staff must show mutual respect for everyone, and this does not change based on how someone is dressed. KSA believes that judgements on the appropriateness of student attire are best made by students and their families, because clothing choices reflect individual identity, cultural norms and socio-economic factors that are intensely personal. Students may attend school and school related functions in clothing of their choice that respects our school community, provided that it meets the following conditions:

1. Conforms with the health & safety requirements for the intended activity.
2. Does not promote drugs or alcohol.
3. Does not display profanity or violence.
4. Does not display discriminatory language or images.

Hat Policy: Individual teachers will discuss the wearing of headwear (Hats with brims/Toques/Hoodies etc.) in their classes and use this opportunity to discuss specific times when headwear may not be appropriate (exams/tests/student presentations etc....)

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 3:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

Supervision Before and After School

Elementary students line up at 8:20 am when the bell rings and be met by a staff



member at their entrance door. Students should not arrive before 8:20 am, unless they have a sponsored activity such as sports practice, or band rehearsal. There is no supervision before the 8:20 am bell.

After school, students are expected to go home or to their appropriate childcare. Elementary students will not take breaks or play at the front of the building for SAFETY reasons. There is no supervision after school.

Parking and Traffic

All student pick-up and drop-off occurs on Fraser Street. The staff parking lot is for staff only. Cars without a staff pass may be towed. If you require handicapped parking or have a child with an IEP that requires accommodation, please contact the office.

We believe strongly in the safety of our children, therefore, please make sure you are aware of parking and traffic routines at our school. Students are reminded to follow road safety at all times. Students are required to use the crosswalk and look both ways before crossing the street.



If you have a serious traffic safety concern or parking, please contact:

City of Kamloops Bylaws @ 250-828-3409.

KSA Student Dismissal and Pick-up Protocol



Primary Classes – (grades K-3) Safety

There is a joint responsibility by the school and parents and/or guardians (caregivers) to ensure all students are released and picked up safely. The designated caregivers (as indicated in MyEdBC) are the only people who are part of the pick-up procedures after school.

Parents/Guardians are responsible for ensuring that the school knows who is picking up a student whenever it is not the regular pick-up person. This communication preferably happens in writing and is received by the school office and respective staff member well in advance. Students may not be released unless the school receives this information prior to pick-up.

Parents/Guardians are also expected to ensure their child is aware of safety with adults that are unknown to them. Schools support this awareness and review this with all classes routinely. Any adult who is not the designated pick-up caregiver needs to report to the office as a visitor. All staff will direct visitors to report to the main office. Secondly, the office will check to see if the adult has consent by the Parents/Guardians to pick up a student. Then the adult can be directed to the designated pick up location. If there is a problem the school administration will ask for reconciliation directly from the parent or request that the visitor leave the building.

Kindergarten Dismissal

Dismissal Checklist:

- 1) Students line up in the hallway with the teacher/supervisors overseeing the line-up
- 2) The students will be divided into two groups:
 - Group A – after school bus students
 - Group B – students being picked up by a parent or guardian
- 3) Group A (Bus students) are taken to the designated bus bench and are supervised by a CEA – they are also taken to their respective buses.
- 4) Group B – Students being released to pre-approved parents/guardians are walked outside to the rear line-up area.
- 5) Students will be released one by one from the line-up. This will happen when the student, parent and teacher have acknowledged the proper person is there for pick up as expected.

Safety Protocol Checklist

1. All authorized parent/guardians must be on the MyEdBC pick-up list
2. All visitors and people who do not usually pick up the students need to report to the main office.
3. All supervisors will continue to wear yellow vests to ensure they are very visible to parent visitors and the students.

Fire Drills and Safety Drills

School fire drills are carried out on a regular basis in accordance with the School Act and in cooperation with the officials of the Fire Department. As well, two lockdown drills and an earthquake drill are held throughout the year.

Emergency “Lockdowns” & “Hold and Secure” Situations

Our staff is highly trained for these situations. Older students may text their parents, if possible, to let them know they are safe and will contact again when the staff indicates it is safe to do so.

In a real “Lockdown” & “Hold and Secure” situation we ask that you do NOT phone the school. This may interfere with emergency services and RCMP communication with the school. You are welcome to call the School Board Office. Facebook communication should also be avoided. Misinformation and rumours can escalate an already difficult situation. When an emergency has passed, the Principal will contact all parents via recorded telephone message. Please make sure your primary contact phone number is correct and up-to-date at all times.

Reporting Student Absences

Please see the attached Kamloops School of the Arts Attendance Manual for 2025-2026. The Manual outlines KSA’s attendance expectations for students and parents.

To report your child’s absence call this toll-free number **1-844-350-2647** or visit go.schoolmessenger.ca A Username and Password has been issued to all parents using the email address provided to the school to access the Safe Arrival program. Options for reporting absences include a phone call, an app or an online reporting tool.

Students Arriving Late

Students who are not in their classrooms by 8:30 am are considered late and must report to the office to sign in for safety. It is important for students to understand the need to be punctual especially at a school that includes unique rotating schedules. Lateness is noted on report cards and may also affect students’ effort marks.

Weather & Proper Clothing

Elementary students should have separate inside and outside footwear. Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately. In the winter, the weather can change drastically during the day. This also affects our footwear. Because it is good for our health, elementary students are expected to be outside during break times (recess and lunch breaks). In the summer, students should come to school with sunscreen, a water bottle and a hat for playing outside.

Ways to Communicate with Teachers @ KSA - a great reference for busy parents.

- 1) If you have quick question please;
 - a) email the teacher directly

b) or call the school @ (250) 374-3200 leave a message for the teacher to call you. (I suggest you leave your phone number for a quick return call:)

2) If you have a concern in a class or subject area please;

a) email the teacher directly to set up an appointment or a phone call time to chat

b) or call the school @ (250) 374-3200 leave a message for the teacher to call you. (I suggest you leave your phone number for a quick return call:)

If you are not contacted by the teacher in a reasonable amount of time (24-72 hours) Please contact the administration. They will make sure the teacher remembers to check their email or find out if the phone message was picked up.

Principal's email: blloyd@sd73.bc.ca

Vice Principal's email: jtraudt@exc.sd73.bc.ca

3) **If you have a more complex or delicate question**, please feel free to copy the principal on your meeting request. It is important to provide the teacher with the opportunity to help you and your child however, we believe that we have a solid team atmosphere and our administrators are here to help in finding solutions.



We also make appointments for phone meetings! We find that busy parents appreciate a quick phone meeting. Please do not hesitate to call the main office to set-up a phone meeting with either Mr. Lloyd or Mrs. Traudt.

Course Selection: GUIDELINES FOR COURSE CHANGE AND STUDY BLOCKS

Students wishing to drop a course must make this request to their counsellor no later than the second Friday after the start of the semester. Changes to yearlong course (Art Majors) must be completed no later than the second Friday after the start of Semester one.:

a) A “change course form” must be signed by teachers involved, counsellor, parent and principal. Forms are available from the counselling office.

b) After the noted deadline, medical exemptions, with a physician’s note, will be reviewed upon request to determine what is in the best interest of the student.

c) After the noted deadline, students will remain in the course and will receive an option to have a WD entered at the end of the semester. This adjudicated process will involve the course teacher, counsellor and the school principal. A WD will be considered if the student was in full attendance for the course and attained satisfactory effort demonstrating a commitment to the course.

d) Students receiving a medical exemption will meet with their counsellor to determine whether another course is available, a partial timetable - with parental consent, or enrollment in a DL course is best suited for their individual educational program.

e) Requests and reviews of specific course changes can also be discussed directly with the school principal.

Secondary Reporting/Graduation

Gold Cords

Gold Cords will be presented each year at graduation Commencement ceremonies. Eligibility is based on both historical and current year marks data as defined below:

- Must maintain 80% in each course grade 10/11/12 and have a minimum of three markable courses each semester for grade 10/11/12. Students must be enrolled full time to be eligible for grades 10, 11 and 12.

Student Progress and Report Cards

Elementary Grade 8 and 9 teachers will continue to use the new reporting format this year:

- Proficiency Scale for all grades K-9 (Emerging, Developing, Proficient, Extending).
- 4 Points of Progress (POP) which include parent/teacher interview, interim report and two written reports
- Formal written forms of POP's three times a year - November, March and June

Foundational Skills Assessments (FSA) Grades 4 & 7

The [Foundation Skills Assessment](#) is an annual province-wide assessment of British Columbia students' academic skills, and provides a snapshot of how well BC students are learning foundation skills in Reading Comprehension, Writing, and Numeracy.

The main purpose of the assessment is to help the province, school districts, schools and school planning councils evaluate how well students are achieving basic skills, and make plans to improve student achievement. FSA is designed and developed by British Columbia educators. The skills assessed are linked to the provincial curriculum and provincial [performance standards](#).

Elementary School Supplies and Fees

Students pay a user fee in September and are provided with their supplies for the year. School supplies are purchased in bulk by the school district. Parents will receive a newsletter early in September regarding the fee schedule.



Medical Policies

1. **Please contact the school if your child has any health issues or potentially life-threatening conditions of which we need to be aware.**
2. Medical forms must be updated every September.
3. No medications (prescription or non-prescription) are to be administered by school district employees without prior written consent of the parent/guardian and doctors must sign a Request for Administration of Medication at School form which includes written medical advice from a physician. For more information, please see AP 316.

Elementary Student Services – Learning Assistance

Specialized programming is provided for students by the learning assistance resource room teacher (LART). Teachers, after consulting with parents, may choose to refer students for learning assistance. Speech and language support, learning assessments, behaviour supports, and counselling is available. Access to specialized programming in the school is initiated through the classroom teacher. Each child on an Individual Education Program (IEP) has a case manager who works with parents to create a learning plan to support the needs of the child.



Parent Involvement

There are several ways in which you can be an active and involved parent at Kamloops School of the Arts. Our Parent Advisory Council (*PAC*) meets at the school on a regular basis. The meeting dates are published in the school newsletters and posted on Facebook. Kamloops School of the Arts PAC (KSA PAC) is the Facebook group for KSA parents.

Many people volunteer in our school. Their involvement is greatly appreciated and allows us to expand our programs and to support children in ways that we otherwise would not be able to do.

We have a vibrant “One-to-One” reading program that only requires one hour a week. This program makes a huge difference in children’s lives. They may require a little extra support in reading but when they begin to grow and improve their skills, they feel confident, happy and proud. Please consider joining this team. Email blloyd@sd73.bc.ca to find out more.

Whenever parents are in the school, we emphasize the importance of confidentiality. Records and personal information are confidential and we expect our parents to respect that. **Regular volunteers are required to sign a volunteer agreement, and all visitors to the school must sign in at the office.**

Technology Agreement for Students

All students must sign the Student Use & Consent Form.

Students using District technology resources are expected to follow the same regulations both during and outside of school hours. District resources must be used responsibly and not for any purpose except educational purposes. Illegal acts committed on or through District technology resources may be reported to legal authorities. Illegal acts may include, but are not restricted to, hacking into systems or deleting files to which the student does not have access privileges, introducing viruses or downloading or copying copyrighted material.

Guidelines for Personal Electronic Devices - ELEMENTARY

The KSA Elementary Phone/Technology policy addresses the appropriate use of personal digital devices during our regular school day. Personal Digital Devices means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the internet, such as a cell phone, tablet or other smart devices. As per AP 350.1, the safekeeping of these devices are solely the responsibility of the owners.

- Students who bring personal electronic devices will be instructed to keep them in their backpacks or lockers for the duration of the school day.
- We ask that students use the office phone when calling parents during the day due to illness or urgent matters.
- No recording/photographic devices may be used at any time.
- Cell phones or other devices are prohibited during recess and/or lunchtime.

Essential Supports - students who are exceptions to these expectations will be identified by our LART/Counsellor.

Failure to comply with this policy will result in the confiscation of the electronic device which will be retained by the teacher and/or turned in to the office for follow-up with administration.

KSA Phone/Technology Policy - SECONDARY

The KSA Secondary Phone/Technology policy addresses the appropriate use of personal digital devices during our regular school day. Personal Digital Devices means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the internet, such as a cell phone, tablet or other smart devices.

Bell-to-Bell Expectations

- During class time (from bell-to-bell), personal digital devices will remain in lockers, backpacks/purses, or holders provided by classroom teachers. Phones will be off or in silent mode.
- During class time, all school areas, including bathrooms, hallways, and common areas will be designated CELL PHONE FREE.
- During class time, airpods, headphones or listening devices connected to personal digital devices will not be permitted.
- Cell phones and other technology may be used at secondary long break and lunchtime.
- Creating or recording photos, videos, sound, or other digital artifacts without consent is prohibited at KSA at any time during the school day unless under the direct supervision of a teacher for educational reasons only. At no time will the use of any personal electronic device invade or infringe upon the personal privacy or safety of any member of the school district community.

Essential Supports - students who are exceptions to these expectations will be identified by our LART/Counsellor.

In case of emergencies, communication can be handled through the office.

All adults at KSA are tasked with maintaining our learning environment and keeping students safe. It is expected that students will adhere to these guidelines and any reasonable requests regarding cell phones, or other digital devices (ie. Please put your phone in the phone holder). Failure to comply with adult requests will be dealt with in a tiered system of progressive discipline.

- Progressive interventions by classroom teachers may include individual conversations with students, and communication with parents/guardians via email or phone.
- Continued disruptions to the learning environment may result in phones, or other digital devices, being held in the office.
- Chronic offenders, and students who demonstrate defiance may be referred to administration for follow-up. This may involve a parent/admin conversation to establish individual student plans for success. Chronic cell phone misuse may result in the ban of the student's cell phone from the school.

Students and staff can also refer to the following Administrative Policies for further information: School District #73 AP – 350.1 – Technology: Student Acceptable Use School District #73 AP – 350 – Student Code of Conduct

Internet Access

Most times students are accessing the Internet during class time while under the direct supervision of a staff member. A signed Internet form is on file for all of our students to access the Internet. These forms are handed out to parents at the beginning of each school year.

Gym Strip for P.E. and Dance Classes

On days when elementary students have dance or PE, they are required to wear a T-shirt, shorts (or other flexible clothing like yoga pants), and non-marking running shoes. Primary class clothing requirements will vary with individual teachers; please check with your child's teacher for details.



The following gym strip and materials are to be supplied by all secondary PE students: gym shoes, gym shorts or sweat bottoms, gym shirt or sweat top, and a lock for the gym locker. The student should also have warm workout clothing for the winter months.

Athletics

Kamloops School of the Arts offers a variety of extra-curricular sports programs. Intermediate and Secondary students are able to participate in volleyball, basketball, track and field, and our after-school sports program.



Parents are asked to discuss with their children and together, make wise decisions about joining activities and committing to school teams. A gym strip is required for these programs. In the interest of participation and school spirit, chosen team members have demonstrated a sincere wish to play.

Field Trips

Field trips are an extension of classroom programs. Parents will be notified in advance and must sign a permission slip in order for their child to participate. Parent volunteers are most often needed to help supervise children. Parent drivers are asked to complete a form for insurance purposes.

Please note that no elementary child is allowed in the front seat of a vehicle that is equipped with an airbag. In addition to this, please note that the provincial regulations regarding use of car seats are in effect and must be followed for any trip involving transporting children. Parent drivers are requested to go directly to and from the field trip location, without any additional stops, during field trips. Thank you for your cooperation. Students are expected to behave on field trips in the same good manner in which they conduct themselves at the school.

Lost and Found

Please label your child(ren's) personal belongings. Students are responsible for their own belongings. **Items of value should not be brought to school.** Toys should not be brought to school. Lost items may be located in the lost and found in front of the main office.



Library

The Kamloops School of the Arts library has a full collection of fiction and nonfiction materials for readers from Kindergarten to Grade 12. It is also a great place to read and study. Students have opportunities to exchange library resources during school hours.

Students are responsible for materials borrowed from the library and need to return them by their due dates. Most materials have a loan period of two weeks. Fines are usually issued if books are lost or damaged, students are encouraged to speak with the librarian if this happens. Unpaid fines may result in a student's library and/or google account(s) being frozen until the fine is paid.

Students should keep all library materials:

- stored in a dry bag
- out of reach of younger siblings or pets
- away from food or drink
- safe from the elements

Animals in the School/Classroom

For a number of reasons, including potential allergies, animals are not allowed in the school unless it has been arranged with the classroom teacher and administration. Please refer to Administrative Procedure 255 for more information.



Fair Notice for Parents and Students 2025-2026

Dear Parents and Students:

The safety of our students is a top priority for us all. As a school system, we have been involved in intensive safety training with our community partners – the police, Child & Youth Mental Health and the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Together we have developed a district plan for responding to all situations in which students may be posing a threat to themselves or others. School District No. 73 has a policy in place that requires principals to activate a multidisciplinary “threat assessment” protocol in all cases of students making significant high level threats to harm themselves or others. The procedure is available on the school district website at www.sd73.bc.ca

What is a threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to.

Duty to report

In order to keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents/guardians/caregivers, students and community members must report all threat-related behaviours to the school principal.

What is a Site-Specific Threat Assessment Team?

The school has a site-specific threat assessment team that includes the principal(s), counsellor(s), teachers and a member of the police.

The purposes of a student threat assessment are:

- to ensure and promote the emotional and physical safety of students, staff, parents, the student making the threat, and others
- to ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat
- to understand the factors underlying the behaviours of the threat maker
- to be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker
- to promote the emotional and physical safety of all

A student threat assessment will be initiated for behaviours including, but not limited to:

- serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
- online threats to harm/kill others
- possession of weapons (including replicas)
- gang related intimidation and violence
- verbal/written threats to harm/kill others (clear, direct, plausible)
- bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devises)
- fire starting
- sexual intimidation and violence

What parents and students need to know:

- any threat must be reported to the school principal
- investigations may involve the student services counsellor, the police or other community agencies
- investigations may involve locker or personal property searches
- interviews will be held with the threat maker and other students or adults who may have information about the threat
- parents of students who are directly involved with a threat will be notified
- threatening behaviour may result in disciplinary action and/or change in school placement
- an intervention plan may be developed for the student making the threat and a support plan developed for any individuals targeted by threats

Collection Notice

The School District is subject to personal information privacy laws, and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such laws, including limiting collection of information that is relevant and necessary to address a risk or threat and by ensuring that information is collected from online open source sites. The School District will not collect information as part of a threat assessment unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists. Information collected as part of a threat assessment may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Nixon, Ph.D, Superintendent of Schools



Kamloops School of the Arts (KSA)

Attendance Manual 2025–2026

1. Introduction and Rationale

Kamloops School of the Arts (KSA) recognizes that consistent attendance is foundational for academic success, artistic growth, well-being, and future opportunities. Regular attendance supports student safety, connection, achievement, and full participation in the unique interdisciplinary learning environment we offer.

Under the *School Act of British Columbia*, parents/guardians are legally responsible for ensuring their child's regular school attendance. KSA is committed to working collaboratively with families to support student attendance and resolve barriers early.

2. Expectations for Attendance

KSA expects students to:

- Attend every day school is in session.
- Arrive on time, ready to learn and participate.
- Engage fully in academic and arts-based programming.

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- Ensure daily and punctual attendance.
- Report absences in a timely manner.
- Collaborate with the school to resolve attendance issues.

KSA staff will:

- Monitor attendance daily using MyEdBC. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each block (highschool) and morning and afternoon (elementary)
- Communicate concerns and support with families.
- Celebrate and promote excellent attendance.

3. Reporting Absences

Parents no longer leave a message on their school's answering machine/Safe Arrival line. Our Safe Arrival system handles the majority of parent contact (including phone calls) when a student absence is unexpected. You may access the Safe Arrival Program [here](#)

Safe Arrival Program

Purpose:

To ensure the safety of students by confirming they have arrived at school or have a known and approved reason for being absent.

How Parents/Guardians Report Absences or Lateness. By **8:20 AM** each day of absence, use one of the following:

- Call the toll-free Safe Arrival line at **1-844-350-2647**
- Use the [online portal](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca) via go.schoolmessenger.ca (accessible with your SchoolMessenger username and password)

Advanced Reporting:

If you know in advance of a planned absence (e.g. appointment, family event, travel), you can report it ahead of time using the methods above for added convenience .

App Reminder:

The SchoolMessenger app is the primary communication tool for Safe Arrival updates. Parents who have not downloaded it may miss important notifications.

Student Arrival and Late Sign-In:

Students arriving after **8:30 AM** must **report to the office to sign in** before proceeding to class, ensuring they're accounted for in the system.

Response to Unreported Absences:

If a student is absent and no notification has been received

- The system flags the absence.
- School staff follow up via automated messages or phone calls to parents/guardians to confirm the student's whereabouts.
- Continued unreported absences may trigger the school's "Missing from Education" protocols (see Section 9).

5. Lateness and Early Departure

School start time: 8:30 AM, **School end time:** 2:39 PM (elementary) or 2:54 (high school)

Students arriving after 8:30 AM must report to the office.

Excessive lateness will be addressed with students and families. Students may be marked "late" or "absent" depending on the arrival time and reason.

6. Persistent or Severe Absenteeism

- **Persistent Absenteeism** is defined as missing 10% or more of school days (approx. 18+ days annually).
- **Severe Absenteeism** is defined as missing 50% or more of school days.

Students at risk will receive targeted support, and families will be invited to meet with school staff to develop a support plan.

7. Attendance Interventions and Supports

If attendance concerns arise, KSA may:

- Contact families by phone or email.
- Send formal letters of concern.
- Hold family meetings to identify supports and next steps.
- Develop a Student Attendance Support Plan.
- Refer to school counsellors, Indigenous Family Workers, or community agencies.
- Refer to the District Attendance Support Team (if necessary).

8. Extended Absences and Vacation Requests

Family vacations during instructional time are discouraged. To request a leave of absence:

- Submit a completed and signed Planned Absence Form to the principal in advance.
- Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and only approved in **exceptional circumstances**.

Schoolwork will not be assigned in advance for vacations. Parents are encouraged to read with their children and keep a travel journal.

9. Legal Framework

KSA operates in alignment with:

- *BC School Act (Section 6 & 7)* – Mandates parental responsibility for school attendance.
- *SD73 Administrative Procedure 330 – Student Attendance*.
- *Safe and Caring Schools Guidelines*.
- Ministry of Education attendance data submissions and reporting expectations.

Contact Information

Phone: 250-374-3200

Office Email: ksa-office@exc.sd73.bc.ca

Principal and Vice Principal:

Blair Lloyd and Jeanine Traudt

Office Secretaries:

Jane Viventi

Counsellor/Student Support Contact:

Suanne Wallin

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Background

Regular attendance by students in all their classes enhances their performance and contributes substantially to their rate of progress. While students have the right to access educational programs, they also have a responsibility to attend classes regularly and pursue their studies in a diligent manner. At all school levels, there will be well-publicized procedures for student attendance, and these procedures shall be made clear to students and their parents.

Patterns of serious and dependable work are formed in a student's early school years and are supported by the attitudes of a student's parents.

Specific provisions for regulating the attendance of students shall be developed in consultation with students, staff members and parents' advisory councils, as appropriate.

Procedures

- An accurate daily record of attendance shall be kept for each student.
- Principals are expected to have an established system for verifying on a daily basis reasons for non-attendance.
 - For all grades, unexplained absences will be entered into the Student Information System (SIS); see Academic Procedure 307 – Student Information System (SIS).
 - In District elementary schools, the Safe Arrival program will be activated each school day morning.
 - All unexplained student absences during the school day shall be reported to the school office immediately after any such absence becomes apparent. All reasonable efforts must be made immediately to determine the whereabouts of students who are reported absent.
 - In elementary schools, a system shall be in place to contact parents in a timely manner regarding unexplained student absences.
 - In District secondary schools, attendance shall be taken during each period. All reasonable efforts must be made to determine the whereabouts of students who are reported absent.
 - Principals, in setting procedures for student absences and reasons for non-attendance, will accept students' absences as excused if they are for necessary, important reasons.
- Teachers shall assist in maintaining an accurate attendance record for each student.
- Because principals are often asked to document student absences and attendance, it is strongly recommended that any student absence be explained by absent students' parents.
- Parents are to be encouraged to take the initiative in advising the school when students are absent.
- In cases of unexplained or excessive absences and/or suspected truancies, parents shall be contacted as soon as a pattern of such absences and/or truancies becomes evident, as determined by the school's attendance procedures.

- Initial investigation of reasons for extended non-attendance shall be the responsibility of the principal.
- The principal shall establish the following remediation procedures regarding students who are absent without reason:
 - Work directly with students to resolve issues of non-attendance;
 - Establish ongoing supports to help students attend and be successful;
 - Establish ongoing communication and consultation with parents regarding non-attendance;
 - Implement progressively more serious supports and consequences for students who persist in being absent without reason; and,
 - After all possible remediation efforts have been exhausted at the school level, refer matters of subsequent absences without excuse to the Assistant Superintendent.
- As per Academic Procedure 161 – Communicable Diseases, principals will report to the public health nurse if more than ten percent (10%) of the school population (students and employees) is absent due to gastrointestinal or respiratory infection as per respiratory or gastrointestinal infection, as explained in AP 161.

Legal references: *School Act*, ss 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 17, 20, 22, 65, 79, 85
 Regulation 265/89

Other references: Academic procedures 161, 307

Adopted: September 22, 2008

Revised: August 26, 2019