

## Éy swáyel.

We acknowledge that the Abbotsford School District is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Semá:th and Mathxwí First Nation. With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers.

## Our Commitment

The Abbotsford School District acknowledges historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples endure in Canada, and we accept responsibility as a public educational institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching and community engagement.

## Message from your Administration Team

Welcome to a new year at Eugene Reimer Middle School! Our school Code of Conduct and the expectations of all members of the Eugene Reimer Middle community are outlined in this handbook, and are based on our School District Code of Conduct. These expectations are a guide to promote a healthy, safe, and caring environment for all students to learn. Also included is a short biography of our namesake, Dr. Eugene Reimer, and information about school colours, our mascot, and what it means to be a school of character. It is our belief that ***Eugene Reimer Middle School is a community working together to provide engaging learning opportunities for all to become respectful, responsible, and educated citizens.*** The year ahead will include many experiences and opportunities which will assist our students in preparing for their future. We look forward to working with all families to foster, develop and maintain practices that will lead to student success.

Sincerely,

**Mr. Johnston, Mrs. Myers & Mr. Sandhu**

**Follow us on Instagram! @reimerravens**

**Visit us at: [eugenereimer.abbyschools.ca](http://eugenereimer.abbyschools.ca)**

## ERMS Student Code of Conduct: Statement of Purpose

The ERMS Code of Conduct serves as a guide for all members of our learning community. It is designed to promote a healthy, safe, caring environment for students of all abilities to learn. We value equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in our school building and always strive for a learning environment free from discrimination as stated in the British Columbia Human Rights Code.

## Conduct Expectations

As students mature, they can expect to be presented with more opportunities to demonstrate responsibility in our school building. They will develop leadership skills and recognize the value they present as role models to younger students and community partners.

Students will also become more aware of personal responsibility and understand the need for increasing consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

Eugene Reimer Middle School students are expected to always demonstrate character traits at all times in our school building, and when off campus representing our school on field trips, at sports events and extra-curricular activities or on the school bus.

## **Acceptable Conduct**

Students are expected to conform to high standards of behaviour when at school, on the way to and from school, and while attending any school function or field trip. Students should strive towards—but are not limited to the following behaviours:

- Demonstrating exemplary character traits
- Respecting the rights of members of the ERMS community
- Promoting an environment of understanding & mutual respect
- Working to the best of their abilities
- Being honest and forthright
- Caring for each other
- Leaving a situation better than it was found
- Becoming an expert at something
- Always Representing ERMS positively

## **Consequences**

Violations to the ERMS Code of Conduct will result in consistent and fair disciplinary action. The development of self-discipline is an important goal at our school. The goal of the disciplinary action is for students to learn from their mistakes and be restorative rather than punitive. The violation will be dealt with on an individual basis. The severity and frequency of the violation and the age, maturity, and needs of the student will be considered when determining appropriate action.

## **Harassment & Bullying**

Harassment or Bullying is against the District Code of Conduct and will be dealt with severely and quickly. Harassment or bullying is inappropriate remarks, jokes, taunting, comments, gestures, sexually suggestive comments, or actions that create an uncomfortable environment in person and/or online.

A Bully is someone who:

- uses power to hurt others or harm their possessions
- purposely scares or intimidates others
- often hurts the same person repeatedly
- is sometimes supported by other people who just watch, instead of helping the person being bullied

If a student feels he or she is being harassed or bullied, he or she should:

- tell the person to stop
- tell a parent/guardian, teacher, administrator, or another trusted adult
- try to stay away from places or times they might be alone with the harasser or bully

If a student is aware of someone who is being bullied, he or she should tell a parent/guardian, teacher, administrator, or another trusted adult.

## **Student Rights & Responsibilities**

- Every student has the **RIGHT** to an education. Students have the **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.
- Every student has the **RIGHT** to be heard. Students have the **RESPONSIBILITY** to listen and not interrupt those who are speaking.
- Every student has the **RIGHT** to be safe. Students have the **RESPONSIBILITY** to treat others in a way that does not hurt them or cause them to be afraid at school or on the way to and from school.

- Every student has the **RIGHT** to be respected and free from discrimination as set out in the BC Human Rights Code. Students have the **RESPONSIBILITY** to treat others with respect, and not tease, harass, or discriminate against other people.
- Every student has the **RIGHT** to privacy and to his or her own personal space. Students have the **RESPONSIBILITY** to respect the personal property of others, and to accept their right to privacy.

### **Banned Substances and Weapons**

All alcohol products, marijuana and its paraphernalia, all vaping (e-cigarettes) and tobacco products are NOT allowed on the school grounds or in the school building at ANY time. These items are not permitted at any school activity, field trip or event. Parents/guardians will be contacted, and disciplinary action will follow the school district [AP 331 – Drugs and Controlled Substance Abuse](#). Additionally, pop and energy drinks are not to be consumed at school.

As per [Board Policy 15 – Student Code of Conduct](#), any type of weapon, replica or genuine, including but not limited to guns, knives, slingshots, clubs, brass knuckles, lighters and matches, laser pointers, firecrackers or fireworks, bear spray, etc. are not allowed on school grounds or in the school at any time, or at any school activity, field trip or event. Parents/guardians will be contacted, and disciplinary action will be levied on any student who is found to be carrying a weapon (or replica) to, from, or within the school, or to, from, or at any school activity, field trip or event.

### **Care of School Property and Vandalism**

The destruction or defacing of property belonging to the school or to others is strictly prohibited. Students are responsible for taking care of all of school property, as they will be held accountable for any damage to desks, chairs, locks and lockers, textbooks, library books, school technology and other equipment. Students will be charged full replacement cost for loss or damage to any school equipment.

### **Student Dress Expectations**

As per [AP 318 – Student Dress Code and School Uniforms](#), student dress expectations are:

1. Clothing and accessories cannot pose a safety concern or conceal one's identity
2. Specific attire may be required for a variety of classroom settings such as Explorations, Physical Education/Fitness, science labs, etc.
3. Clothing must cover undergarments.
4. When there are differences in perspective, all involved have a duty to seek common understanding in a mutually respectful manner. Ultimately, the school administration has the responsibility to apply the dress policy where necessary. If any person dresses in an inappropriate manner, they will be advised personally and discreetly.

### **Profanity**

As per [Board Policy 15 – Student Code of Conduct](#), the use of inappropriate language, including language that is profane, obscene, racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise offensive, is not acceptable on the school grounds or in the school building at ANY time. This language is also not permitted at any school activity, field trip or event. Disciplinary action will be taken for violations.

# ERMS Routines, Policies, and Information

## Our Vision Statement

ERMS is a diverse learning community empowering the whole person toward individual success, community involvement and global citizenship.

## 2024-25 Bell Schedule

Welcome Bell: 8:15 a.m.

Block 1: 8:25 - 9:24 a.m.

Block 2: 9:24 - 10:22 a.m.

Nutrition Break: 10:22 - 10:37 a.m.

Block 3: 10:37 - 11:36 a.m.

Lunch (Eat then Play): 11:36 - 12:21 p.m.

Block 4: 12:21 - 1:20 p.m.

Block 5: 1:20 - 2:20 p.m.

## Attendance

Except for illness, appointments or unavoidable family concerns, all students should attend school every day.

Absent students miss the lessons of the day and the learning that takes place in group discussions where students begin to appreciate the different views and abilities of others. Learning that is lost due to absence can never be adequately replaced! ***Students are responsible to find out what work was missed and to make it up.*** Students who miss a day or part of a day can only play a school-related game or attend a school social function with the permission of school administration.

When students must be away, parents are asked **to inform the school**. The most convenient way of doing this using the **SchoolMessenger App** (free download from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store). Using this app will also allow families to receive electronic newsletters and updates from the school.

Students who arrive late (after the second bell) **MUST** sign in in at the office before going to class.

Students leaving early (example, for a medical appointment) **MUST** sign out at the office; students may **not** leave campus without permission from their parent/guardian.

## Administration of Medication

If your child requires medication to be taken at school, please complete form AP 328 - Administration of Medication to Students. This form is available from the office or on the school district website ([abbyschools.ca](http://abbyschools.ca)). Have the form completed by your doctor and also sign as parent/guardian where indicated and return to the school as soon as possible.

## After School

At the end of the school day students are to gather their belongings, homework, etc., and follow the routine set up between student and parent (such as walk home, wait for pick up, take the School Bus or City Bus, etc.).

Students are expected to be out of the school no more than 15 minutes after dismissal unless they are participating in a supervised extra-curricular activity.

## Bikes, Skateboards, Scooters, Rollerblades

Students wishing to ride bikes, skateboards, non-motorized scooters, or rollerblades **must wear a helmet and use a specific area of the school that will be identified**. Other safety equipment (e.g., knee, wrist, and elbow pads), while not mandatory, is strongly encouraged, and left to the discretion of each child's parent. The use of bicycles, skateboards, scooters, and rollerblades is **not** permitted on school property during the school day. Bikes and scooters must be walked upon arrival at school and locked on the racks. Bike locks are required - please purchase a heavy-duty bike lock. **Students are not permitted to be around the bike rack area during the school day.**

Students are expected to use common sense in terms of the safety of other students and themselves; stay out of the parking lots/driveways, use the crosswalk, and stay out of construction.

**ERMS is NOT responsible for lost or stolen bikes, skateboards, scooters, or rollerblades.**

### **E-Scooters and Hoverboards**

E-scooters are not permitted on school property. Although there is a pilot project in BC where certain cities are piloting e-scooters, they are **not** permitted in the City of Abbotsford. In the cities that are being piloted the rider must be 16+ years old, wearing helmets, not on sidewalks, and obeying traffic rules as a vehicle. Please visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/cycling/electric-kick-scooter-rules> for more information. Hoverboards are also not permitted on school property.

### **Breaks**

There is a 15-minute nutrition break after the first two periods of the day. Students are encouraged to use this time to visit the washrooms. Students are to go to their lockers, get their snacks, and head outside right away. Note that we go outside rain or shine, so please ***dress for the weather***. As the fall and winter weather approaches, hats, gloves, coats, and boots are all essential.

All students are to eat lunch in their classroom during the eating period. At the end of eating period, students are to go outside. Note that we go outside rain or shine, so please ***dress for the weather***. As the fall and winter weather approaches, hats, gloves, coats, and boots are all essential. Students may remain in the school following the destination bell ***only if a teacher is directly supervising them.***

### **Bus Behaviour**

For safety reasons, the bus driver has authority over the students on the bus he/she operates. These drivers are to be given the same respect and courtesy given any staff member. Students who behave inappropriately on school buses will face consequences which may include removal from the bussing program. ***ERMS bus students are not permitted inside Rick Hansen Secondary while they wait.***

### **Valuables**

Students are strongly discouraged from bringing valuables including ear buds, cell phones, valuable shoes, and clothing articles. All cell phones must be powered off and left in lockers during the school day (including nutrition break and lunch). Cell phones may be used before and/or after school once students have exited the building.

Do not bring large sums of money to school and never leave money or valuables in the PE change rooms.

**Valuable items are brought to school at the owner's risk; the SCHOOL is NOT responsible for any loss.**

**[Student Use of Personal Digital Devices in Schools \(District Administrative Procedure 345\)](#)**

The District recognizes the capacity within particular new and future technologies, and their educated use, to create opportunities for many constructive and positive applications that can aid learning in a school or classroom environment. Students can use these technologies to create digital content, to communicate, to collaborate and share, and to access apps and tools that may enrich their thinking and learning. Additionally, some regulated use of personal digital devices in the school and community may contribute to the safety and security of students and staff. The District also recognizes that unregulated use of such devices may pose a risk to personal safety; may disrupt instruction; may invade personal privacy and may compromise academic integrity.

### **Closed Campus**

ERMS has a closed campus policy. This means that only students who attend Eugene Reimer Middle are to be on the school grounds during the school day. It also means that once students arrive at school they remain on the grounds until the end of the day. Students being picked up or dropped off during the school day (for medical appointments, etc.) should be met in the school office by a parent or guardian to be signed out. Those who arrive with no purpose are not welcome on school property.

### **Emergency Drills**

Schools are required to perform fire drills, earthquake drills, shelter in place and lockdown drills during the school year. Students should be familiar with the procedures for these emergencies. These drills should be considered serious and conducted without talking. Tampering with alarms or fire safety equipment is a serious offense and is punishable by law.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Extra-curricular activities will be offered to students who wish to participate. These may involve after school clubs, trips, and sporting events. Extra-curricular activities are considered privileges, and a student may be denied the opportunity to participate due to behaviour that does not meet the code of conduct, low marks, or poor attendance.

### **Field Trips/Travel**

Students are expected to behave themselves in a manner which reflects our school's code of conduct. Permission forms signed by parents/guardians are required for participation, and families should ensure they are signed up for SchoolCash Online ([schoolcashonline.com](http://schoolcashonline.com)) to receive notifications about field trips.

### **Homework**

Homework and review of concepts taught in class are important parts of all learning, as is reading daily. It is an expectation for all students to have homework completed and all assignments handed in on time.

It is our expectation that students in grades 6 and 7 spend 30 to 45 minutes per night, and grade 8 students between 45 to 60 minutes per night on homework. However, we need to keep in mind that although an evening school activity is important, students need time to be children too. There must be a balance between work and play. If parents believe their child is doing excessive amounts of homework, please contact your child's teacher.

### **Illness at School**

When a student becomes ill at school, parents will be contacted to arrange for pick up. The medical room can be used with the permission of a staff member until parental contact is made. In any case of illness or injury, no student is permitted to go home on his/her own initiative but must seek help at the office.

### **Internet Agreement & Social Media Networks**

The purpose of the school district network is to facilitate research and education amongst users by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. Students at ERMS require parent/guardian consent to participate in the use of Internet and digital devices at school. Many students at ERMS have personal computers at home or have access to them elsewhere. More often than we would like, teachers, counsellors, and administration at ERMS are asked to intervene in conflicts between students that began or took on a life of their own “via” internet email or Social Media accounts. Violations of [Board Policy 15 – Student Code of Conduct](#) regarding Internet use can include temporary or permanent revocation of access rights to the System, suspension, expulsion or termination, or legal action. We encourage students to make choices to use the social network sites and email services appropriately and to resist the urge to become “cyber-bullies” by speaking unkindly or spreading rumours.

### **Lockers and Locks**

All students will be issued a combination lock and a locker. No personal locks are permitted; locks must be obtained from the school for security reasons. **Lock combinations are to be memorized and NOT shared with anyone.** A \$11.00 fee is charged to any student who needs a lock replaced because they lost it or shared the combination with another student. Lockers are not to be shared. Graffiti, unacceptable pictures, and writing are not permitted, and a student can be instructed to remove them at any time. **Student lockers are the property of the school and are subject to search at any time, with or without notice.** Students may only go to their lockers outside of instruction time or outside of the designated times with teacher permission. To minimize the loss of instructional time we encourage students to maintain one binder organized by subject.

### **Learning Services**

Students who require help with schoolwork or have a personal concern can approach classroom teachers, learning services teachers including the counsellor, Youth Care Worker, school administration, or any school staff member for assistance.

### **Lost and Found**

Lost clothing, bags, etc. can be claimed from the Lost and Found box under the foyer stairs. Jewelry, purses, wallets, phones, and other smaller items should be turned into the office and can be claimed from the office staff. Unclaimed items are donated to charity at various times during the year after being displayed for students to search.

### **Office Hours**

Office hours are 7:30am – 3:00pm. The school phone number is 604-504-5343; parents are encouraged to report absences or lates via the SchoolMessenger App.

### **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**

The PAC is your parent/guardian community at ERMS. We encourage our families to work closely with our school administration and staff to support, encourage, and provide assistance to enhance the quality of

education and the well-being of all students at ERMS. To learn more about the PAC, visit their page on our website: [eugeneiremer.abbyschools.ca/parentsandstudents/pac/eugeneiremer](https://eugeneiremer.abbyschools.ca/parentsandstudents/pac/eugeneiremer) or email them at [ermspac@gmail.com](mailto:ermspac@gmail.com)

## **Parent Volunteers**

Volunteers will be needed for various events and activities throughout the school year. All volunteers must submit an application to volunteer at ERMS and must also have a valid Criminal Record Check (CRC – this is good for 5 years). Please contact the office for more information, or visit the volunteer page on our website: <https://eugeneiremer.abbyschools.ca/parentsandstudents/volunteers/eugeneiremer>

## **Planners**

Planners will be issued to students this year, and it is expected that students will use them to record homework, important due dates, tests, and assessments and so on. Students should bring planners with them to class.

## **Visitors**

To help maintain the security of our building and campus and the safety of students, **all visitors** (including parents/guardians) must check in at the main office upon entering the school. Parent/guardians dropping off items (lunches, planners, gym strip, etc.) are asked to leave these items in the office with their child's name. Your child will be paged down to the office during a break to pick the item up.

## **About our Mascot: The Raven**

The raven is a black, glossy bird that is a member of the crow family. The raven is known for its competitiveness, intelligence, mastery, adaptability, and ability to cooperate. We feel many of these qualities are ones Eugene Reimer students should strive to accomplish.



## **About our School Colours**

Our school colours are black, silver, red and white.

- **BLACK** represents the predominant colour of the North American raven.
- **SILVER** represents the lining of a cloud where a raven flies. The “silver lining” provides comfort, protection, and an inspiration for the future.
- **RED** and **WHITE** represent two important ideals:
  - The colours of the Canadian Flag, the flag and country which Eugene Reimer represented so well, winning over 50 national and 22 international medals over his 22-year athletic career.
  - The colours of BC Disability Sports represent perseverance, strength, ability, dedication, and an opportunity to achieve.

## **Our Namesake: Dr. Eugene Reimer**

Our school proudly displays the name of a Canadian hero, Eugene Reimer. Eugene Reimer's story, his commitment to service, unwavering positive attitude, and his passion for enabling others to set goals and realize their potential is a compass for the staff and students at Eugene Reimer Middle School. Eugene Reimer's significant contributions to sports and to athletes with a disability are unparalleled. An inspiration to thousands of disabled individuals, Eugene proved that a wheelchair is not a handicap, but rather, an opportunity for athletic achievement.



Following a childhood bout with polio, the longtime Abbotsford resident was left with only minimal use of his legs. In the 1960s, when wheelchair sports were in their infancy, Eugene took on sports with a passion. He excelled in a wide variety of competitions, including weightlifting, archery, swimming, basketball, volleyball, and track and field events. Eugene Reimer quickly became one of British Columbia's top all-around athletes.

From 1968, until his retirement from sports in 1980, Eugene amassed over 50 national and 22 international medals, including 10 in the Paralympic Games (5 Gold, 4 Silver, 1 Bronze). Eugene was named "Canadian Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year" in 1972, the first time that such a level of recognition had been awarded to an athlete with a disability. In 1974, he was awarded the Order of Canada medal for his "inspiring example to the handicapped". In 1991, the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame and Museum presented Eugene with the W.A.C. Bennett Award, in recognition of his special contribution to the Province of B.C. In 2000, Eugene was inducted into the Terry Fox Hall of Fame (now known as the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame). Later that same year, the Eugene Reimer Award was established. This award is presented annually and recognizes a British Columbian who makes an outstanding contribution in the field of sport, recreation, or physical education for persons with disabilities. Abbotsford's own Eugene Reimer was honoured as the inaugural recipient. On May 2nd, 2002, Eugene Reimer was the first disabled athlete inducted into the B. C. Sports Hall of Fame.

A valued ambassador for people with physical disabilities, he is still celebrated as "a highly distinguished Abbotsford Native whose courage, dedication and many achievements are an excellent model for the youth of our community, and particularly those attending the school that will bear his name."

In June 2023, community members joined students and staff at Eugene Reimer Middle School to remember the life and legacy of Eugene Reimer and celebrate the school's 20th anniversary.

### **Eugene Reimer Middle School and Abbotsford City of Character Shared Values**

ERMS is a school of character, and members of our school community strive to live the following character traits every day:

<b>RESPECT</b>	Respectful people are self-disciplined and courteous, and they protect the rights and dignity of others.
<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	Taking responsibility means being accountable for your actions, your words, and your obligations.
<b>INTEGRITY</b>	Integrity is a commitment to honesty that is clear because actions are consistent with stated beliefs or promises. Honest, truthful, trustworthy people have integrity.
<b>EMPATHY</b>	Empathy is sensing, sharing, and understanding the experiences, feelings, and emotions of others.
<b>COURAGE</b>	Courage is the ability to face and endure what is dangerous, difficult, or painful without giving in to fear.
<b>SERVICE</b>	Service is committing talents, resources, time, and effort to support, guide, and enrich individuals, organizations, and initiatives in the community.