



Bamfield Community School Handbook

2025/2026

Grades K-12

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Welcome to Bamfield Community School!

For easy access to all live links, please view the digital version of this document on Bloomz

School Phone: 250-728-3352

Staff and Contact Information

Principal: Dave Maher, dmaher@sd70.bc.ca

Vice-Principal: Robin Schmitt, rschmitt@sd70.bc.ca

Primary Teacher (K-2): Laura Schmitt, lschmitt@sd70.bc.ca

Intermediate Teacher (Grades 3-6): Ashley Altorf; aaltorf@sd70.bc.ca

Secondary Teacher (Grade 7-12): Jonathan Carpentier, jcarpentier@sd70.bc.ca

Indigenous Support Teacher: Julie Bradley, jbradley@sd70.bc.ca

Educational Assistant: Sonam Sulthana, ssulthana@sd70.bc.ca

Custodian: Chelsea Heartman, cheartman@sd70.bc.ca

Stay Connected with Bamfield Community School

To stay informed and engaged throughout the school year, we encourage all families to use two key apps:

- **Bloomz** – Our main platform for class updates, school announcements, and parent-teacher communication.
 - *Please ensure you're connected to your child's current teacher on Bloomz to receive the most relevant information.*
- **Pacific Rim Schools App** – Get instant notifications about weather closures, power outages, district events, and more. You can also report student absences directly through the app. Link [HERE](#)
- **Bamfield Community School Website**. You can also visit our school website for additional information and resources. Link [HERE](#)

Home/School Agreement

Student	Parent/Guardian	Teacher
<p>School Handbook and Code of Conduct: I have read the handbook and will follow the school's code of conduct at all times, respecting its guidelines and principles.</p> <p>Attendance: I will attend class regularly and arrive on time. I will notify the teacher in advance if I will be absent or late.</p> <p>Safety: I will follow classroom safety rules and procedures to ensure a safe learning environment for everyone.</p> <p>Honesty: I will be honest and trustworthy in my words and actions. I will admit mistakes and learn from them.</p> <p>Listening: I will listen attentively to others without interrupting. I will follow instructions carefully and ask for clarification when needed.</p> <p>Respect: I will respect the perspectives and contributions of others, fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding.</p> <p>Cooperation: I will work collaboratively with classmates, showing patience and willingness to compromise when working in groups.</p> <p>Organization: I will keep my workspace and materials organized. I will respect shared classroom resources and keep them tidy.</p> <p>Effort: I will always do my best work and strive for continuous improvement. I will take pride in my accomplishments and efforts.</p>	<p>School Handbook and Code of Conduct: I have read the School Handbook, including the Code of Conduct, and I agree to adhere to its guidelines and principles.</p> <p>Respect: I will respect and support the school's policies, procedures, and staff members.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: I will prioritize my child's physical and emotional well-being, ensuring they are prepared and equipped for learning each day.</p> <p>Attendance: I will ensure my child attends school regularly and arrives on time, notifying the school promptly of any absences or tardiness.</p> <p>Behavior: I will reinforce positive behavior and respectful conduct at school and address any concerns regarding my child's behavior promptly.</p> <p>Communication: I will maintain open and regular communication with teachers and school staff regarding my child's progress, challenges, and needs.</p> <p>Participation: I will encourage my child to actively participate in classroom activities, school events, and extracurricular opportunities.</p> <p>Learning Support: I will collaborate with teachers and school staff to identify and address any learning challenges or support needs my child may have.</p> <p>School Engagement: I will stay informed about school events, policies, and opportunities, and actively engage in my child's educational journey.</p>	<p>Student-Centered Approach: I will prioritize student well-being, growth, and individual needs.</p> <p>Respect and Inclusion: I will create a respectful and inclusive classroom where all students feel valued, safe, and supported.</p> <p>High Expectations: I will set high standards for student learning and behavior, providing support and challenges for each student to excel.</p> <p>Differentiated Instruction: I will adapt instruction to meet diverse student learning styles, interests, and abilities.</p> <p>Effective Communication: I will maintain clear communication with students, parents/guardians, and colleagues about progress, expectations, and activities.</p> <p>Fair Assessment: I will assess student progress fairly and provide timely, constructive feedback to promote growth.</p> <p>Classroom Management: I will establish effective strategies to maintain a positive and productive learning environment.</p> <p>Professional Growth: I will actively seek professional development to enhance teaching practices and stay informed about educational trends.</p> <p>Adherence to Policies: I will adhere to school policies, procedures, and the Code of Conduct, modeling expected behavior and fostering respect and responsibility.</p>
Signature:	Signature	Signature

Daily Schedule:

Elementary (K-6):

8:40 am – School Begins
 10:15 – 10:30 am – Recess
 12:01 – 12:45 pm – Lunch
 3:00 pm – Dismissal
 Dismissal at 12:02 pm every Friday

Secondary (Grades 7-12):

8:30 am – School Begins
 12:01 – 12:45 pm – Lunch
 3:00 pm – Dismissal
 Dismissal at 12:02 pm every Friday

Open Campus Policy (Grades 7-12):

At Bamfield Community School, students in Grades 7–12 are allowed to leave campus during breaks, lunch, and after school as part of our open-campus policy. This helps foster independence and responsible time management. If you prefer your child not leave school grounds during these times, please contact the school to make arrangements.

Power Outages and Other School Closures:

Power outages are common in Bamfield and often knock out cell service and the internet. During these times, we rely on landlines, VHF radios, and in-person communication.

While we encourage families to check the Bloomz and Pacific Rim Schools App for updates, we recognize that access to these platforms may not be possible during outages. That’s why we have these protocols in place to guide decision-making and ensure student safety.

Usual procedures during a power outage:

- **Before school:** If the power is out in the morning, classes are canceled until it’s restored.
- **During school:** If power goes out mid-morning and appears to be long-term, students are usually dismissed at lunch due to limited light, heat, and food service.
- **When power returns:** School resumes as normal, and students can return.

Final decisions about school closures and early dismissals are made by the Superintendent, based on safety and operational needs.

Outdoor Activity Guidelines:

At Bamfield Community School, students go outside every day for fresh air, physical activity, and social time—rain or shine. We make the most of our outdoor space with:

- Sports & games like soccer, basketball, and tag
- Nature walks & exploration in our beautiful surroundings
- Creative play on the playground and open areas
- Quiet time for reading, drawing, or relaxing outdoors

To help students enjoy these activities safely and comfortably, please send them dressed for the weather:

- Rainy days – Waterproof jackets and boots
- Cold weather – Warm layers, hat, gloves, scarf
- Sunny days – Hat, sunscreen, light clothing

Thank you for supporting your child's health and learning by helping them come prepared for daily outdoor time!

Healthy Snacks and Drinks:

As per HealthLink BC guidelines, energy drinks are not permitted at Bamfield Community School during the school day (learn more [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)) This supports our commitment to a healthy, nutritious learning environment.

We encourage families to pack healthy snacks and drinks, such as:

- Fruits & veggies – apples, oranges, berries, carrot sticks, cucumber slices
- Whole grains – crackers, rice cakes, granola bars
- Dairy or alternatives – yogurt, cheese, milk, or plant-based options
- Protein sources – nuts, seeds, hummus, boiled eggs
- Drinks – water is best; 100% fruit juice or low-sugar options are okay too

Please avoid sending sugary snacks, soda, and highly processed foods. Nutritious choices help students stay energized, focused, and ready to learn.

Thank you for supporting our healthy school initiative!

Technology Use:

Students at Bamfield Community School use computers, tablets, and other digital tools to support learning, build tech skills, and engage in interactive activities.

To support this, each student should bring their own set of headphones. Personal headphones help with hygiene and improve the experience during online lessons and individual work.

Students will also learn to use technology safely, responsibly, and ethically, developing strong digital literacy and online safety skills to prepare them for future success.

Cell Phones, Smart Watches, and Electronic Devices:

This school year, students will not be permitted to carry cell phones, wireless earbuds, smartwatches, or other personal electronic devices on their person during class time. Devices must be stored in the designated classroom storage—not in pockets, backpacks, or lockers

This aligns with:

- BC Ministry of Education direction on safe and focused classrooms: Link [HERE](#):
- Pacific Rim School District Policy: [Policy Link](#)
- SD70 Pacific Rim Administrative Procedures: [Procedures Link](#)

Key Points:

- Devices may only be used with staff permission for learning, medical, or accessibility reasons during instructional hours.
- Devices are not permitted for texting, music, social media, or other personal use during class time.
- Taking photos or videos is strictly prohibited without explicit staff permission.
- Students are responsible for their own devices. The school is not liable for lost, damaged, or stolen items—devices should be left at home if not needed.
- Misuse may result in the device being confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. Parents/guardians will be notified, and repeated issues may lead to further restrictions.
- Parents/guardians are asked not to message students during class time. For urgent messages, please call the school at 250-728-3352.

Thanks for supporting a focused and respectful classroom environment.

Bamfield Community School Code of Conduct & Restorative Practice

At Bamfield Community School, we are committed to a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environment. Our Code of Conduct reflects these values for students, staff, and visitors. This Code is aligned with School District 70 policies and administrative procedures, including the following links (Policies [101](#), [401](#), [402](#), [510](#), [Anti-Racism](#), [Non-Discrimination](#), and Administrative Procedures [1010](#), [3124](#), [4002](#), [5008](#), [5009](#), [5010](#), [5011](#), [5012](#), [5013](#), [5014](#), [5015](#), [5017](#), [Anti-Racism](#), [Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools](#), [Violence in the Workplace](#)) which provide further guidance on expectations, responsibilities, and procedures for maintaining a positive school climate.

Our Core Expectations:

- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be Kind
- Be Safe

These mean treating each other with kindness and empathy, taking ownership of actions, fostering positive relationships, and ensuring everyone feels secure.

Rights and Responsibilities

Right	Responsibility
Safe environment	Contribute to the safety of others
Respect from others	Treat others and property respectfully
Supportive learning environment	Engage positively in learning
Fair treatment and accountability	Be honest and responsible for actions

Acceptable Conduct Includes:

- Respecting school expectations and the rights of others
- Maintaining a harassment-free, inclusive environment (including electronic communication)
- Taking care of school property and the environment
- Reporting unsafe behaviours to an adult

Unacceptable Conduct Includes:

- Use of foul language or obscene references
- Bullying, harassment, discrimination, or threats (including online)
- Fighting, promoting violence, or retaliation
- Illegal activities (weapons, drugs, theft, vandalism)
- Creating unsafe or disruptive environments
- Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism)
- Ignoring reasonable requests by staff
- Inappropriate use of technology

Discipline applies to conduct **on or off school grounds** when it affects the school community.

Restorative and Progressive Discipline Approach

We focus on restorative practices that repair harm and rebuild relationships, alongside progressive discipline that increases in severity with repeated infractions.

Potential consequences include:

- Reflective conversations and action plans
- Restorative activities involving those affected
- Supportive interventions like counselling or mentoring
- Teacher and administrator interventions, including suspension or withdrawal in serious cases

Rising Expectations

As students mature, they are expected to show greater responsibility and self-discipline. Consequences will escalate with repeated inappropriate behaviour.

Dress Code

Students should dress respectfully, avoiding clothing that glorifies illegal activities or disrupts the school culture.

Communication and Notification

Depending on the situation, the school may:

- Ask students to inform parents of incidents
- Contact parents directly
- Inform victims' families
- Notify district officials or law enforcement as needed
- Alert the school community when appropriate

Together, through respect, responsibility, and restorative practices, we aim to create a supportive environment where everyone can thrive.

Attendance and Absences

Regular attendance is essential for academic success and community responsibility. We ask parents, caregivers, and guardians to notify the school promptly about any planned absences.

Excused Absences include:

- Student illness or health appointments
- Death in the family
- Religious holidays
- Family emergencies or personal safety concerns
- Principal's discretion
- School-related activities (e.g., field trips)

Unexcused Absences include:

- Work-related absences
- Sleeping in
- Transportation issues
- Babysitting or non-school sanctioned events
- Failure to explain absence within 2 days
- Missing school events without approval
- Being on or near school property but not attending class
- Leaving school without staff permission

From All of Us At Bamfield Community School

At Bamfield Community School, we believe that learning is a journey we take together, with students, families, and community walking side by side. This handbook is here to guide us, but the most important part of school life is the relationships we build.

We are so glad you're here. Let's make this a year of growth, kindness, and discovery—together. 🌟

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

— Nelson Mandela

