

KDS Vision

“BUILDING OUR CHILDREN’S FUTURE TODAY BY TEACHING AND LEARNING THE DENE WAY.”

KDS Mission Statement

KDS is committed to providing quality education for our students by concentrating on four components of learning:

- Language and Culture
- Academics and Technology
- Physical and Active Living
- Dene Laws and Virtues Education

Through the development of skills in these areas, students will grow and develop into respectful, healthy, diligent, and strong Dene who will give back to their families, community and the

North.

Mahsi to our parents, families and community members who contributed to creating the vision and mission statements that will guide the future of education in our community school. Our KDS Vision and Mission Statements are featured in the entrance foyer of our school.

Governance:

K’àlemì Dene School is governed by an elected body, the Ndilq District Education Authority (NDEA). The NDEA contracts Superintendent Services from Yellowknife Education District No.1. The NDEA meets once a month.

Members (2019-2022) include:

- Lila Erasmus, Chairperson
- Theresa Black, Trustee
- Myra Conrad, Trustee
- Cece Beaulieu, Trustee
- Sarah Erasmus, Vice Chairperson
- Roberta Campbell, Trustee
- Nyra Mackenzie, Trustee

Please call the school at any time! 920-7260



This is our **22th** year in operation: 2020-21. This will be our eleventh year in our new school building.

Outlined below are the details of this school year: 2020-21

We offer Jr. Kindergarten to Grade 12 programing to approximately 100 students.

School Staff as follows:

Alice Evans	School Elder/Language Instructor
Janna Linnen/Julie Harris	Jr. Kindergarten, Kindergarten Teacher
Ashley Deavu	Grades 1/2 Teacher
Jolene McDonald	Grades 3/4 Teacher
Danielle Cote	Grades 4/5/6 Teacher
Courteney Lizotte	Grades 6/7/8 Teacher
Denine McDonald	Grade 8/9 Teacher
Tyrrell Hughes	High School ELA, Social Studies, Northern Studies
Mike Mansfield	High School Teacher Science/CTS
Chris Pyke	Math/Alt High School Program
Ty Hamilton	Culture Program Coordinator
Cecilia Goulet	Food Service Assistant
Bertha Goulet	Custodian
Aaron Plotner	Educational Assistant
Richelle Ludtke	Educational Assistant
Noel Hernandez	Educational Assistant
Renee Sanderson	Educational Assistant
Chelsea Nickerson	Educational Assistant
Annie Casson	Program Support Teacher
Meagan Wowk	Principal



Educational Programming



K'àlemì Dene School offers a full academic program for Junior Kindergarten to grade 12. In all subject areas, we follow the curriculum prescribed by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. We use the same curriculum as all NWT schools and Alberta.

The main curriculum that guides our educational activities is Dene Kede because of its unique focus on the Dene perspective of teaching and learning. Language and Culture is integrated as much as possible into all lessons. Students also receive Willideh Yatì lessons twice a week and participate in key cultural experiences throughout the year.

Specialty Programs

Willideh Yatì - All students attend regular Willideh Yatì lessons with our Language Instructor and Culture Coordinator. Children learn language through direct instruction, experiences, songs and games.

Land Based Education – JK to grade 9 students will spend a half day/week on the land as we expand our culture program. Students will work with cultural experts to learn about Yellowknives Dene First Nation Language and Culture in an authentic environment.

Physical Education – JK-grade 12 students attend regular physical education classes. Students need a clean, comfortable pair of shoes for the gym. Outdoor shoes will not be permitted on the gym floor. KDS does not have an attached gym, and students must walk across the street to the community gym. We are fortunate to have YKDFN share their facilities with the school.

Music –At this time due to Covid-19, singing is considered a high-risk activity. We hope to be able to offer music at some point during the school year.



The School Day

K'àlemì Dene School operates on a Monday to Friday schedule. **The school opens at 8:30 a.m.** for breakfast with **classes starting 8:45 a.m.** - as soon as the school bus brings the uptown children to the community of Ndilq.

Grade 10-12 will end their day at 2:30 this year because we have eliminated their breaks. JK to grade 9 will end at 3:30 p.m. Students riding the bus will start getting ready at 3:10 as to decrease the traffic in the halls.



Each classroom bubble has a slightly different schedule for snack, breaks and lunch. Please contact the school for a class specific schedule.

KDS Food Program:

KDS offers a full meal program for our students:

8:15 a.m. Breakfast Program: Yogurt, muffins and fruit
10:30 a.m. Snack Program: fruit
12:30 p.m. Lunch Program: bagged lunch with a sandwich, fruit/veggies, cookies, granola bar

While we will not be able to enjoy meals together like before, we will come up with some creative ways to build school spirit.

If children bring their own snack/lunch to school, please remember to pack nutritious items – **NO POP or JUNK FOOD!**

We are a Nut Aware school, please do not send nuts!



2020-21 School Year – Dates to Note

A newsletter and calendar will come home at the beginning of each month.

First day of school is Monday, August 31, 2020. Last day of school for students is Wednesday, June 25, 2021



Holidays and Breaks:

- Labour Day: Monday, September 7, 2020
- Thanksgiving: Monday, October 12, 2020
- Remembrance Day: Wednesday, November 11, 2020
- Christmas Break: Saturday, December 19, 2020 to Sunday, January 3
- Spring Break: Friday, March 12 to Sunday, March 30, 2021 (inclusive)
- Good Friday: Friday, April 2, 2021
- Easter Monday: Monday, April 5, 2021
- Victoria Day: Monday, May 24, 2021
- National Indigenous Peoples Day: Monday, May 21, 2020

Parent/Teacher Interview are held in the evenings with a Friday off in the same week.

Term 1:

- Report cards go home on Monday, November 23, 2020
- Tuesday, November 24 and Wednesday, November 25, 2020 from 4:00 to 7:00
- No School on Friday, November 27, 2020

Term 2

- Report cards go home on Monday, March 8, 2021
- Tuesday, March 9 and Wednesday, March 10, 2020 from 4:00 to 7:00
- No School on Friday, March 12, 2020

Professional Development Days – No School

- Friday, October 23, 2020
- Friday, November 6, 2020
- Friday, February 12, 2021
- Thursday, February 25, 2021
- Friday, February 26, 2021
- Friday, May 14, 2021
- Friday, June 4, 2021





Culture Camps & School Feasts

This school year, we will be working hard to expand our language and culture program. We are aiming to have students from JK-Grade 9 outside for an afternoon on-the-land once a week. These afternoons will usually take place close to the school and we will have a tent frame set up for students to warm up in when it gets colder. Students will participate in a range of activities with Cultural experts from the community. We will also offer our regular camps although they may look different due to Covid-19 restrictions.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. September 2020 | Fall Berry Picking Camp |
| 2. January 2021 | Winter Fish Camp |
| 3. February 2021 | Trapping & Snaring |
| 4. April 2021 | Muskrats and Beavers Trapping |
| 5. June 2021 | Duck Plucking |



Feasts and concerts will be postponed until they can be offered in a safe manner. Large gatherings are not allowed at this time due to Covid-19.



Mahsi/Thank You

General School Information



Absences

If your child is absent from school, please ensure that someone calls the school to let us know: 920-7260. If we have not received a phone call, we will call home as a safety measure. As well, if your child is to remain indoors during recess, please call the office.

After School Program

KDS offers an afterschool program for JK to grade 2 students. Students must be registered in the program and picked up no later than 5:15 p.m.

Cell Phones and Electronics

We recognize that students carry cell phones, however, cell phones and electronics can be distracting in the classroom. They can also be lost or stolen and the school is **NOT** responsible. If students have personal cell phones or other electronics devices they must follow the classroom teacher's policy on cell phone use.

Current Contact Information

Things arise throughout the day and we may need to get a hold of you. Please ensure the school has your most up-to-date contact information on file.

Field Trips, Sports Teams and Travel

KDS staff is dedicated to providing students with amazing experiences like field trips, after school sports and travel. To participate, students must practice the

3A's:

- **A**ttend school regularly,
- work to the best of their abilities **A**cademically and
- have a positive, kind **A**ttitude.

Lost and Found KDS has a Lost and Found Bin in the main entrance. Please check it regularly as items will be donated at the end of each month. It is a good idea to mark all of your children's items with their name.

Pick-up

Please call the school if your child's after school plans change. We need to hear from a parent or guardian if someone different is picking up your child.



Prayer

At KDS, we start each day with a prayer to Creator in Wiilideh Yatì as is the YKDFN protocol. The prayer is a recording of Elder Mary Jane Francois and students review the meaning of the prayer during language class.

Report Cards

Report cards are issued three times per year: November, March, and June. Report cards are handed out to the children for review at home. Two of the reporting periods also include Parent-Teacher Interviews. We hope to see you at Parent Teacher Interviews as we love bragging about your kids!



School Communication

The school sends home a monthly newsletter featuring the children's work, activities and events happening at school. Also included in the newsletter is a monthly calendar of events. To remind families of upcoming events, KDS will "sticker" kids with the most important information. KDS also posts regularly on the KDS Facebook page.



School Supplies

KDS provides all school supplies that your child will need throughout the year. We only ask that you send a clean, comfortable pair of indoor shoes for safety reasons (like fire alarms) and to use during gym class.

Staff Meetings

On the first Tuesday of each month, there is a KDS staff meeting. Our meetings begin at 3:30 p.m. On these Tuesdays, the children will be asked to leave the school building, as there will be no supervision available.

Toys from Home

Our classrooms are filled with developmentally appropriate learning materials and toys. Please ensure your child leaves their toys at home as personal toys are often lost, stolen or cause disagreements.



K'àlemì Dene School's Discipline Policy

The foundation of our School Discipline Policy is relationships. At K'àlemì Dene School (KDS) we strive to build positive relationships by creating a welcoming, inclusive learning environment for everyone. Teachers are encouraged to build strong routines and hold high expectations for students while taking the time to get to know them.

We recognize the best discipline is preventative. At our school, we aim to know our students well and encourage good choices through role modeling and positive reinforcement through Positive Behaviour Intervention Supports. KDS also understands the importance of our students' social emotional well-being. We continue to implement Second Step: Skills for Social and Academic Success.

Our School Rules are straightforward and easy to follow:

1. Get to school on time every day.
2. Listen to your teacher.
3. Do your schoolwork.
4. Be kind.

At times, some students require additional support and in accordance with the Education Act of the Northwest Territories, K'àlemì Dene School's Discipline Policy adheres to Subsection 69(2) (j) & (k) and subsection 45(l) (h) & (i) and aims to:

- Develop a positive learning environment
- Ensure to the best of our ability, the safety of all students and staff
- Ensure that students understand and comply with the school rules and code of conduct
- Suspend a student, if required, under subsection 35(1)

Levels of Behaviour & Responsibility:

Students are expected to learn, work, and play safely, respect self, others, and the school environment, and be responsible for their behaviours and choices.

Level One Offences:

Minor discipline issues, that occur in the classroom or on school premises, will be dealt with immediately at the time and place by the educator(s) who witnessed the offence. If need be, the principal can intervene. Examples of minor offences include but are not limited to:

- *Disrespectful comments*
- *Minor disruptions of class*
- *Minor defiance*
- *Using electronics during restricted times*
- *Inappropriate language*
- *Rough housing/wrestling*
- *Minor abuse of property*

Consequences for Level One Offences:

If the level one offence continues to occur, the educator will use a "three-strike" warning process, and on the third-strike, send the student(s) to the principal's office for her/his attention.

Level Two Offences:

A level two offence is behaviour that threatens the physical and emotional safety of students and staff. Examples of level two offences include, but are not limited to:

- *Level one repeated three times in a short period of time*
- *Verbal, physical, sexual harassment or abuse*

- *Throwing objects with intent or possibility of injury*
- *Defiance of authority*
- *Use of vulgar and abusive language*
- *Damaging or stealing property*
- *Dangerous playground or gym behaviour.*

Consequences for Level Two Offences:

The principal will deal with the offence and consequences as follows:

1. Date and outline the details of the level two offence in the students' file.
2. Once the student has calmed down, discuss the incident with the student, the learning, and the better choice making process that will be used next time.
3. Record the offences accordingly: after 1 – extra chore; after 2 – two extra chores; after 3 – phone home to parents, possibility of loss of privilege at school.

Level Three Offences:

Level three offences are issued under subsection 35(1) of the Northwest Territories Education Act for students that interfere with the safety of students and staff or with the delivery of the curriculum.

Examples of level three offences include but are not limited to:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • <i>Major assault</i> | • <i>Serious theft</i> |
| • <i>Major vandalism</i> | • <i>Severe unsafe conduct</i> |
| • <i>Use of a weapon</i> | • <i>Major disrespect</i> |

Consequences for Level Three Offences:

The principal handles these offences. They have to be handled very carefully and on an individual basis.

The general routine of consequences for major offences is as follows:

1. Date and outline the details of the major offence incident in student's file.
2. Phone parents for interview regarding incident.
3. Depending on the severity of the offence, the student could be given an in-school suspension or an out-of-school suspension.
4. If the student receives an out-of-school suspension, the length of the suspension will be at the discretion of the principal. In such cases, it is the parents' responsibility to see that the student has proper supervision at home.
5. When it is time for the student to return to school, the principal will set an interview time with the parents to discuss the child's re-entry.

Bullying

In order for any instance to be considered bullying, the behaviour must include one or both of the following:

- An imbalance of power: kids who bully use their power, such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity, to control or harm others. Power imbalance can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: bullying behaviours happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Any incident reported to a school staff member that appears to fit the bullying definition will result in immediate action. The following actions will take place:

1. Investigated thoroughly. This means talking to all parties involved, including witnesses. Everything will be documented on the YK1 bullying report form.

2. Inform parent that an incident has happened and is being investigated.
3. Decide consequences. The principal, in collaboration with the classroom teacher and other support staff will decide appropriate consequences as per the KDS discipline policy.

The victim also needs reassurance that the incident was taken seriously and a consequence was given that will deter the offender from repeating the offense. It is not necessary or always advisable for the victim and offender to reconcile. This may be a long process.

The principal will work with staff and parents to monitor any bullying situation to avoid future reoccurrence and to provide support.

Conclusion:

In order to provide a healthy and safe environment at KDS, we promote positive and proactive approaches. Mistakes are looked upon as opportunities to learn and develop more appropriate behaviour. We also encourage our students to follow the Dene Laws and build strong virtues that will help guide them into healthy life choices.

