

**O.M. IRWIN SCHOOL
2025-2026**



STUDENT HANDBOOK 2025-2026

Mrs. Deb Steinley
PRINCIPAL

Mr. Geoffrey Horn
VICE-PRINCIPAL

999 George Street East
Swift Current, Saskatchewan
S9H 1Z3

Telephone: (306) 778-9270

Fax: (306) 773-8642

Email:

dsteinley@chinooksd.ca

ghorn@chinooksd.ca

OUR MISSION

"Achieving Excellence"

OUR VISION



OUR VALUES

1. We provide *"Learning For All"*.
2. We support and develop each holistic learner.
3. We build character and community.
4. We promote communication.
5. We are a safe and caring school.
6. We embrace diversity.



O.M. IRWIN SCHOOL

The school was named after Dr. O.M. Irwin, a prominent citizen and physician in Swift Current. As a school board member, he was instrumental in establishing the first school library in Swift Current. Dr. Irwin served as Mayor of the City and was president of the Provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons. He was also Honorary President of the Swift Current City Teachers' Association.

O.M. Irwin School is designed to promote intellectual, emotional, physical and social growth according to the individual needs of each student.

The school moniker is the IRWIN ICE and is represented by a Polar Bear.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

O.M. Irwin Mission Statement.....	2
O.M. Irwin Staff	5
Bell Schedule	6

A. School Procedures

1. Attendance	7
2. Lates	7
3. Leaving School	8
4. Illness/Injury	8
5. Lunches	8
6. Locks and Lockers.....	9
7. Personal Property	9
8. Emergency Management Plan.....	9
9. Student Dress and Appearance.....	10
10. Physical Education and Gym Use	11
11. School Grounds	11
12. Assemblies & Junior Concerts	11

B. Coaching & Managing Student Behaviour

1. Behaviour Expectations.....	12
2. School Bus Regulations.....	13

C. Student Services & Activities

1. School Counsellor	13
2. Resource Centre/Library	14
3. School Telephone.....	14
4. Cell Phone Policy.....	14
5. Extra-Curricular Activities.....	15
6. Band Program	15

D. Communication Between Home and School

1. Communication Tools and Opportunities	17
2. Parent Teacher and Student-Led Conferences ...	17
3. Tell-Them-From-Me Survey	17
(OurSchool Survey)	



O.M. IRWIN SCHOOL STAFF

Instructional Staff

Mrs. Deb Steinley, Principal
Mr. Geoffrey Horn, Vice-Principal
Ms. Kris Burnett
Mrs. Hayley Cabrales
Mrs. Annissa Crosbie
Mr. Kurri Darby
Mr. Steve Dyck
Mr. Brett Eltom
Mr. Trevor Froese
Miss Brienna Gillanders
Mr. Chris Grainger
Ms. Michele Gurski, Counsellor
Ms. Amanda Jahnke
Miss Michaila Jersak
Mrs Carley Johnston
Miss Megan McCleary
Ms. Kristen McWillie
Ms. Shania Meyer
Ms. Carys Nisbet
Mrs. Alexis Potter
Mrs. Jobi Regier
Mrs. Christie Robinson
Mrs. Brooke Robson
Mrs. Kristi Schwartz
Mrs. Christine Thompson
Mrs. Ashley Tinant
Miss Nikki Weisbeck
Mrs. Heidi Wong

Support Staff

Mrs. Heather Painchaud (Office)
Mrs. Maureen Hanson (Office)
Mrs. Debbi Bleackley (Library)
Mr. John Saguisin (Supervisor)
Ms. Heba Anouz
Mrs. Bernadette Benito
Ms. Felicia Coker
Miss Taylor Couch
Mrs. Tracy Chapman
Mrs. Jennifer Engen
Ms. Megan Englebrecht
Ms. Clarissa Faulkner
Mrs. Colleen Gardner
Mrs. Leanne Johnson
Mrs. Natasha Kirby
Miss Boston Palmer
Mrs. Amy Popick
Mrs. Liz Ramage
Mrs. Brenda Saufert
Ms. Katelyn Stone
Mrs. Carla Weinbender
Ms. Melissa Williams
Mrs. Carlyn Zanidean

Facility Operators

Ms. Stacie Sprague
Ms. Chris Campbell
Mr. Lawrence Forde



BELL SCHEDULE

O.M. IRWIN SCHOOL

Warning Bell K - 2	8:35
Warning Bell Grade 3 – 8	8:38
O'Canada / Announcements	8:43
Period 1	8:45 – 9:24
Period 2	9:24 – 10:03

Break/Recess	10:03 – 10:18
---------------------	----------------------

Period 3	10:18 – 10:57
Period 4	10:57 – 11:35

Lunch	11:35 – 12:25
--------------	----------------------

Period 5	12:25 – 1:04
Period 6	1:04 – 1:43

Break/Recess	1:43 - 1:58
---------------------	--------------------

Period 7	1:58 – 2:37
Period 8	2:37 – 3:15

Dismissal	3:15
------------------	-------------



A. School Procedures

1. Attendance

Regular attendance is necessary for successful school progress. If a student misses school he/she is responsible for the materials covered in class. This means completing assignments and making sure he/she gets any missed notes, or handouts. Data shows that a student's learning is greatly impacted in a negative way when he/she misses a lot of school. Students may be assigned to noon Homework Club to assist them with completing work due to absences.

Whenever a student is absent from class, he/she must ensure his/her parent or guardian either brings a signed note or phones the school the same day to confirm the absence and the reason. The purpose of contacting the school is for the home and school to communicate that a student is safe and accounted for. Thank you for assisting in this process.

2. Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up Times

Parents/Guardians, if you need to drop off your child, or have him/her walk to school in the morning, please respect the fact that students cannot arrive to school before 8:10am. If students arrive before 8:10am, they will not be supervised. Also, at the end of the school day, all students must be picked up from school by 3:30pm. After 3:30pm, students (unless they are involved in a school-approved activity) will not be supervised.

Student Drop-Off / Pick-Up: If you drop off or pick up your child, please wait in the foyer or office. This is especially important at the end of the school day. Parents and guardians must wait in the foyer or outside prior to the 3:15pm bell to ensure that the end-of-day routines and plans can be followed.

3. Lates

It is important that students arrive on time and be prepared to learn for each class. Each individual teacher may develop a personalized plan for dealing with late students. If a student is chronically late, parents may be contacted in order to develop a solution.



4. Leaving the School

If a student leaves the school during school hours, he or she must check out at the Main Office. Parents should notify the office via phone call or written note before the student needs to leave. When returning to school during the day, students must report to the office before going to class. Whenever possible, student appointments (medical, dental, etc.) should be made outside of regular school hours. Students are expected to indicate on the Sign-Out List (in the office) the time they leave, and upon returning, the time they get back.

5. Illness/Injury

In the event of sudden illness or injury, the student should notify his or her teacher, excuse oneself from class, and come down to the office. If the illness persists or is severe, **the school will notify parents**, and arrangements will be made for the student to go home. Students are not to make their own arrangements to leave.

6. Noon Hour/ Lunches/ Snacks

Parents can choose whether their children eat their lunch at school or go home for lunch. O.M. Irwin School is a closed campus. Therefore, parents/guardians will need to call the school or send a note to their child's teacher, if they are picking up their child at lunch.

The school will supervise students at noon. Students do not have access to microwaves at Irwin School.

Also, the staff at Irwin School strongly discourages the purchase and consumption of Energy Drinks due to the health risks associated with them. Students will not be permitted to bring energy drinks to school or consume energy drinks during the school day or during school-sanctioned activities. Also, please be aware that a number of students and staff have peanut/nut allergies, so please try to keep all nut products at home.

7. Locks and Lockers

All grade 5-8 students are assigned two lockers and are expected to use **TWO** school locks. One locker is for storage of books, coats, etc. The other is a tote locker in the locker room for storage of gym clothes, running shoes, etc. The same locks can be used for all four years while the student attends Irwin School. Lost locks **MUST** be replaced at the cost of the student. Students are not to **share their**



combinations with fellow students. Lockers are the property of O.M. Irwin School and are being loaned to the student. The School reserves the right to enter and search a student's locker when deemed necessary.

8. Personal Property

Items which distract, disturb others, or jeopardize student safety are not to be brought to school. If deemed necessary, a staff member may confiscate such items.

a) **Look after your belongings!** All items that belong to you should be clearly labeled. Students are responsible for the safekeeping of their belongings and valuables.

b) Lost and Found

-Articles that are found should be taken to the office and put in the lost and found.

-Please consult physical education teachers for articles lost in the locker room or gymnasium.

c) Bikes, roller blades, and skateboards

-Bikes should be locked and placed in the racks provided. They are not to be ridden on the school grounds. Rollerblades, skateboards, and longboards are not to be used on school property. These items should be securely stored from the time a student arrives at school to the time they depart. **The school assumes no responsibility for stolen or misplaced items.**

9. Emergency Management Plan

The Chinook School Division and O.M. Irwin School are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and staff members. In the event of an emergency, it is important to be prepared and able to respond in a responsible and thorough manner. In order to be prepared for an emergent situation at school, various practice drills will take place throughout the school year. Not all emergency responses will be practiced through the use of drills, however, it is important that certain drills are practiced each school year. Drills that are conducted throughout the year are:

- Fire Drills (6)
- Shelter-in-Place Drills (2)
- Lockdown Drills (2)
- Duck/Cover/Hold Drills (2)

Please call the school if you have any questions or concerns about the school's Emergency Management Plan.



10. Crosswalk

All students and parents/guardians are required to use the 10th and George Street Crosswalk if they are crossing George Street before or after school. Please do not cross George Street other than the patrolled crosswalk.

11. Dress and Appearance

In order to maintain a healthy, safe, caring and respectful school, we ask that students refrain from wearing inappropriate clothing while at school. School is a formal environment, therefore it is expected that students and staff are dressed appropriately. All students should strive to present a neat and clean appearance. If in the opinion and professional discretion of a staff member a student is immodestly dressed or inappropriately dressed, he/she will be asked to put on his/her Phys. Ed clothes. Parents may also be contacted to bring appropriate clothing to school. The student is expected to refrain from wearing the inappropriate clothing to school again.

Clothing with profane wording or is of a demeaning nature is prohibited. Clothing bearing a printed message will be judged improper if the message is obscene, derogatory in nature, subject to more than one interpretation or promotes intoxicants or drugs.

Hats/headgear are not to be worn in the classroom. However, students may wear their hat/headgear from the main entrance to their locker and vice versa.

Students are not to wear jackets during class time.

12. Physical Education

a) Participation

Regular participation is required for a student's success in Physical Education. Requests to be absent from parts of the class, or limiting participation, must be supported by a note from parents or guardians. Students will be expected to participate in the parts of the class in which they are able. Long-term absences must be supported by a doctor's note explaining the reasons and the length of the absence.

b) Physical Activity Dress

Grade 5-8 students are asked to have the following items for Physical Education classes:

- O.M. Irwin t-shirt and gym shorts



- One pair of gym shoes
- Deodorant (for older students) in a metal or plastic container (no glass please)

One Irwin t-shirt and one pair of shorts can be purchased from the school store as a package or items may be purchased separately. Frequent washing of gym clothing is suggested.

The **gymnasium** and **all sports equipment** are off limits to ALL students unless a staff member has granted them permission. Also, students are expected to wear gym shoes in the gymnasium during open gym time before school, at noon and at breaks.

13. School Grounds

The parking lot is reserved for staff and visitor parking. This area is out-of-bounds to students during regular school hours.

14. Assemblies and Junior Concerts:

Our K-8 students will participate in a school assembly once a month to celebrate student learning and promote school culture.

We will also have special performances performed through our Junior Concert series. These performances will be an opportunity for our K to 8 students to come together. All junior concerts support our Arts Education program. Families are welcome to join us for our monthly assemblies and junior concerts. Please look for the dates of monthly assemblies and junior concerts in our monthly newsletter and on our school website.

15. MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION PROCESS

In the event where the school is required to administer medication to a student, parents are required to contact the school and fill out an “**Administration of Medication**” and an “**Extreme Allergy Management and Emergency Plan**” form. All medication should be kept in the office. If a student is bringing medication to school, parents are asked to please inform the office.



B. Coaching & Managing Student Behaviour (Under Review)

1. Behavioural Expectations

Behavioural expectations at O.M. Irwin School are based on universal virtues of character:

- **RESPECT**
- **RESPONSIBILITY**
- **ENTHUSIASM**
- **CARING**
- **EXCELLENCE**

The school recognizes that people make mistakes. Making mistakes is part of learning and growing as individuals. Students who have difficulty meeting the teacher's or the school's expectations for behaviour have opportunities to correct their mistakes or to "make things better". Sometimes, part of this process is accepting consequences assigned by the teacher for behaviour that is not appropriate. Teachers may use a variety of strategies, including restitution, in working with students. There may be times when students refuse to attempt to "make things better", or students refuse to cooperate with their teachers. This student behaviour can be highly inappropriate or even pose a risk to the safety and well-being of other students. **These behaviours define the school's "bottom line" for behaviours that cannot be tolerated or accepted.**

These behaviours include the following:

- Verbal or physical assault with intent to harm
- swearing at staff
- swearing at another student
- fighting
- bullying
- Refusal to comply with the request of a staff member
- Consistent documented disruptions to the learning environment
- Behaviour that is injurious to the moral tone and reputation of the school
- Use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, and vapes/vaping
- Vandalism or theft
- Skipping school



The school believes that a student's individual circumstances or situation must be recognized when working with students to solve serious issues. We follow a philosophy of progressive discipline when dealing with student behaviour issues.

2. School Bus Regulations

Riding the bus is a privilege; therefore students are expected to follow the behaviour and safety guidelines set out by the bus company. If the bus driver deems a student's behaviour as jeopardizing the safe operation of the bus, that student will be returned to the school for pickup by a parent or guardian. Upon administrative review, the student may lose his or her bus privileges.

- First time offence..... Warning about removal of bus privileges.
- Second offence..... 3 days removal of bus privileges.
- Third offence..... 1 week removal of bus privileges.
- Fourth offence..... 1 month removal of bus privileges.
- Fifth offence.....Indefinite removal of bus privileges

Gross misconduct at any time may also result in the removal of bus privileges.

3. USE OF TOBACCO AND SMOKE RELATED PRODUCTS

As per Chinook School Division, all tobacco and tobacco related products are prohibited on school premises.

Electronic products such as electronic cigarettes, cigars, and pipes as well as cartridges of nicotine solutions and related products are prohibited in all schools and on all division properties.

C. Student Services and Activities

1. School Counselling Services

Irwin School provides counselling services for individuals and groups of students. These services are designed to assist students to achieve academic goals and develop social skills. Other health supports such as the Addictions Counsellor and the Mental Health Counsellor provide supports at the school periodically.

2. Resource Centre/Library

There are no fines for overdue books or materials. Students are responsible for the materials they sign out. There will be charges for any lost materials or damaged materials not returned by year-end.



3. Telephones

There is a telephone located in the Main Office for student use. **This student phone should only be used before school, break time, lunch hour and after school.** Personal calls should be limited, and calls should be no longer than 3 minutes. It is not our practice to call students from class to the phone but we will take a message for them if necessary. All elementary students will need their classroom teacher's permission to use the student phone.

4. O.M. Irwin School Cell Phone Policy (or any device capable of messaging in any capacity)

Cell phones have become a means of communication for many students and families at O.M. Irwin School. In an effort to balance protecting the learning environment, providing a safe environment for all students and respecting the student / parent sense of security, the following policy has been developed:

Cell phones must be in “OFF” mode and stored in the student’s locker.

FIRST OFFENCE – Cell phone is confiscated and returned at the end of the day. A parent will be contacted.

SECOND OFFENCE – Cell phone is confiscated and a Parent/Guardian will be asked to pick up the cell phone from the Main Office.

THIRD OFFENCE – An in school suspension will occur for defiance of school policy, and parent / guardian will be asked to pick up the cell phone.

FOURTH OFFENCE – Out of school suspension will occur for overt opposition to authority, and parent / guardian will be asked to pick up the cell phone.

Students are encouraged to use the student phones beside the office. Parents are encouraged to leave a message for their child by calling the school at (306)778-9270. Cell phones may not be used during the course of the school day. **Students may use their cell phones after school, as they are leaving the school premises.** Communication via Social media is expected to align with the school's Behaviour Policy.



5. Extra-curricular Opportunities

All students are encouraged to join a program that interests them. Activities vary slightly from year to year depending on the interests of the students and staff. In past years, Irwin has offered the following noon and after school activities:

Kids in the Kitchen	Grade 5 Basketball	Outdoor Education	Shop Club (Gr.8)
Basketball	Jazz Band	Volleyball	Badminton
Art Club	Track and Field	Drama Club	Cross Country
KKIDZ (Gr.1-5)	Grade 6-8 Dance	Ice Hut (Gr. 5-8)	Fitness Center (Gr. 8)
SLC			

6. O.M. Irwin School Band Program

Student registration numbers are necessary in the Spring. Timetables and staffing depend on potential numbers for Band and non-Band students.

Students/parents must commit in Spring in registering for band for the upcoming school year. **Grade 6, 7, and 8 students who start the year in Band are expected to remain in Band for the entire year.**

7. Awards Day/Night (Grade 6, 7 & 8)

The annual awards celebration will occur in June. In the spring, the school will send out more information regarding the awards celebration. The annual awards celebration will be reviewed by school staff this year.

8. Extra Curricular Athletic Teams

O.M. Irwin School participates in a city inter-school sports program for both boys and girls. Teams are involved in the sports of volleyball, basketball and badminton.

The playing field/court is an extension of the classroom where students develop their skills, encourage one another and celebrate the gifts and talents each player brings to the team. Each player has a role on the team and contributes in a unique way. Students who play on a sports team at O.M. Irwin School are students first, ambassadors of our school, and must be a student in 'good standing' to participate in games. A student in good standing includes elements such as modelling our school values, and demonstrating positive behavior towards students and staff during the school day. Students on in school or out of school suspensions are not allowed to participate in games and practices should the suspensions occur during the practices and games. During practices and games,



the students must consistently exude values We Belong; We are Responsible; We are Respectful; We are Enthusiastic; and We Learn both on and off the court.

There are three levels of play available to meet the needs of students in skill level, expectation and time commitment: Senior, Intermediate and Junior.

Senior teams are for those interested in developing their skill at a higher level, interested in playing competitively, committed to the practice times, game times and out of town tournaments. There are try-outs and players are selected based on the above criteria. Equal playtime is not guaranteed at this level of play.

Intermediate teams are also on a tryout basis but are less competitive than senior teams. At this level of play, there is still a focus on skill development, equal play time, commitment to practice and games and possibly an in town tournament.

Junior teams are for those students who want to play the sport for exercise, fun, a sense of belonging and will develop some fundamental skills along the way.

Teams are created based on this criteria so that they are competing against league teams of similar composition and skill level. In a game, there is always a winner and a loser. Whether or not the team wins is not as important as how the game is played. Regardless of the level of play, the goals of each team should be working as a team, belonging to a group that represents O.M. Irwin School, winning graciously, losing gracefully, and building one another up in a positive, fun, competitive environment.

Students and parents will be expected to review and sign a code of conduct for students and parents at the start of each sport's season. Coaches will have parent meetings prior to the start of the season to review expectations for students, parents, and share important information for the team.

D. Communication Between Home and School

1. Communication Tools and Opportunities

- A school newsletter is sent home each month. (Hard copy or electronically)
- Parents are invited to contact the school when they have questions, concerns or comments.
- Staff can be contacted via Email by typing the staff member's first initial, and last name, followed by @chinooksd.ca ex) djones@chinooksd.ca
- Teachers will contact parents when necessary.
- Our internet address is <http://schools.chinooksd.ca/irwin/>
- You can find the following information on our homepage
- Email/text messages through school approved social media sites.



- Announcements are updated daily and read during the morning homeroom period and are available at the following Internet address
<http://schools.chinooksd.ca/irwin/index.php?NewsTab=3>

E. Tell Them From Me Survey (TTFM)

Irwin School will conduct the Tell Them From Me Survey (OurSchool Survey) for Grade 4 – 8 students. The data collected is anonymous and is used in order to help our school improve and support student learning. Student data is collected in the fall each school year.

F. Severe Weather Policy/Impact on Bussing

Chinook School Division will make the decision to cancel bus transportation for the day based on weather information provided by Environment Canada. Transportation will be cancelled for the entire day when the morning temperature is -40 degrees Celsius or the wind chill is -45 degrees Celsius or below. Cancellations will be broadcast on local radio stations and should not be confused with school cancellation. All Chinook School Division city schools will remain open. Parents are asked to use their own discretion regarding their child's attendance that day.

Parents are requested to call the school at 306-778-9270 to report their child's absence

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY AND TRANSPORTATION

Chinook School Division and First Student Canada (transportation service provider in Swift Current) will make the decision to cancel bus transportation for the day based on weather information provided by Environment Canada. Transportation will be cancelled for the **entire day** when the morning temperature is -40 degrees Celsius or the wind chill is -45 degrees Celsius or below. Cancellations will be broadcast on local radio stations and should not be confused with school cancellation. All Chinook School Division city schools will remain open. Parents are asked to use their own discretion regarding their child's attendance that day.



RECESS

All students are expected to go outside for recess. If your child is sick and needs to stay inside, please get a note from your family doctor. On very wet or cold days (-25 Celsius with the windchill), all students will remain indoors for recess.

