

Dease Lake School

STUDENT / PARENT HANDBOOK 2025 - 2026



Setting the Standard – Leading the Way!

Dease Lake School
1 Lake Road
PO Box 280
Dease Lake, BC, V0C 1L0
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Mission Statement:

Dease Lake School is a welcoming school community which acknowledges the uniqueness of the individual. Students, Parents, Elders, Guardians, School District 87, and professional staff seek to create a climate where all can experience success. Our quest for excellence encompasses and reflects all aspects of the principles of Tahltan Culture. We build on strengths in a caring and inclusive environment.

Goals for 2025 / 2026:

- To improve student literacy in Tahltan and English.
- To promote a positive school climate.
- To raise the level of achievement.
- To provide a safe, secure and healthy environment that leads to wellness.
- To promote and encourage professional development among staff members.
- To ensure regular communication practices.
- To promote a positive school image.

Administration

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Alex Mendez | Principal |
| • Judith Ni Mhurchu | Vice Principal/LST |
| • Melissa Louie | Secretary |

Teaching Staff

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| • Jasleen Gill | Kindergarten / Grade 1 |
| • Ashley Barabonoff | Grade 2 / 3 |
| • Carlene Quock | Grade 4/5 |
| • Cody Hartwig | Grade 6/7 |
| • Kara Sentance | Grade 8/9 |
| • Cheryl Swan | High School Math & Electives |
| • Christien Dickson | Science / Physical Ed. |
| • Max Marshall | English / Social Studies |
| • Fraser Small | Shop/Electives |
| • Jennifer Williamson | School Counselor |

Support Staff

- **Curtis Rattray** Tahltan Language/Culture
- **Crystal Adams** Tahltan Language/ Culture Assistant
- **Sonia Dennis** Tahltan Language and Culture
- **Jolene Bull** Youth Wellness Worker
- **Nikita Tashoots** Education Assistant
- **Brendon Ducharme** Student Assistant
- **Connie Maitland** Student Assistant
- **Ivy Callbreath** Custodian
- **Fred Moyer** Cook
- **Mikaela Nole** Cook

***Staff email addresses are (firstname).(lastname)@sd87.bc.ca

Bell Schedule (Elementary)

8:50 a.m.	-	10:15 a.m.	First Morning Session
10:15 a.m.	-	10:32 a.m.	Recess
10:32 a.m.	-	11:46 a.m.	Second Morning Session
11:46 a.m.	-	12:46 p.m.	Lunch
12:46 p.m.	-	3:32 p.m.	Afternoon Session

Bell Schedule (Secondary)

8:50 a.m.	-	10:22 a.m.	Block A
10:23 a.m.	-	11:46 a.m.	Block B
11:46 a.m.	-	12:46 p.m.	Lunch
12:46 p.m.	-	2:08 p.m.	Block C
2:11 p.m.	-	3:32 p.m.	Block D

Breakfast Program:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • Elementary | 8:30 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. | Classroom |
| • Secondary | 8:30 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. | Home Economics Room |

Code of Conduct

1. Statement of Purpose

Dease Lake School will provide a positive, caring, and safe learning environment. Dease Lake School upholds the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law – prohibiting discrimination based on gender, race, color, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, physical or mental differences, and sexual orientation.

2. Conduct Expectations

a) Acceptable Conduct:

Acceptable behavior standards are guided by the following beliefs:

- I have the right to be respected. I will also respect others, including those whose beliefs and opinions differ from mine, and will avoid humiliating or belittling others.
- I have the right to have my own and the school's property treated with respect. I will treat my belongings, the belongings of others, and the school in a respectful way.
- I have the right to be safe. I will treat others in a way that will not hurt them or cause them to be afraid.
- I have the right to learn. I will accept direction and work to the best of my ability.
- I have the right to hear and be heard. I will listen and not interrupt those who are speaking.
- I have the right to be cared for. I will help to make the school a safe and caring place.

b) Unacceptable Conduct:

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, acts of:

- Bullying or intimidation
- Cyberbullying or other forms of electronic / digital and / or social media harassment
- Physical violence
- Sexual Harassment
- Illegal acts such as:
 - possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances (tobacco / vapes and / or marijuana / THC products)
 - possession or use of weapons
 - theft of or damage to property

3. Consequences

The severity and frequency of unacceptable conduct as well as the age and maturity of students are considered when determining appropriate disciplinary action for each individual situation. Responses to inappropriate conduct will:

- Be proportionate, consistent, and fair
- Be preventative and restorative whenever possible
- Be inclusive of students when plans for restitution are involved
- Can require completion of restorative behaviour contract
- utilize a Kuwegānh Approach
- have consequences will be progressive:
 - Verbal reminder
 - Parent/Guardian contact
 - 1 Day Suspension; 3 Day Suspension; 5 Day Suspension
 - *** Serious breaches of unacceptable student conduct may result in an immediate Suspension
- adhere to SD87 Administrative Procedures and Policies pertaining to *Policy No. 14, Student Code of Conduct*

4. Notification

The Principal, Vice Principal, or Principal Designate may advise other parties of serious breaches of the Code of Conduct. For example:

- parents / guardians of student offender(s)
- parents / guardians of student victim(s)
- school staff
- school district officials: as required by school district policy
- police (RCMP) and/or other agencies: as required by law
- all parents/guardians: when necessary

5. Dress Code

Student dress shall be in accordance with generally accepted community standards and appropriate for the educational environment. These standards and regulations of dress shall apply equally to male and female students.

Clothing and accessories such as backpacks, patches, jewelry, binders, and notebooks must not display the following:

- Racial or ethnic slurs / symbols
- Vulgar or sexually suggestive language or images
- Overly revealing

6. Lockers

Lockers are made available for use by students from grades 8 through 12. Lockers are school property.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

1. Preamble:

We will strive to educate students as to the negative effects of drugs, alcohol, and all tobacco products, including chewing tobacco and vapes. We will promote abstinence of drug use as the best choice and, within our ability, will provide counseling for students needing further information and advice. The school may also provide harm reduction through counselling and provide strategies for good decision making as part of our overall drug reduction strategy. We recognize that non-medical use of alcohol or drugs has a harmful effect on the user and that it may adversely affect the quality of life of others with whom the user associates. The school environment must be drug, alcohol, and tobacco free.

2. Policy:

No student may be in possession of or under the influence of illegal or non-prescribed drugs or alcohol in the school, in the vicinity of the school, or at school sponsored functions. For students under the influence, parents will be contacted to bring the student home. The use of all forms of tobacco (including chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes and vapes) is prohibited on school property.

Attendance and Punctuality

Students understand that regular attendance and punctuality are fundamental to academically success. It is known that attendance of classes has a direct correlation to success in the courses and that this leads to Graduation success.

Academic Citizenship

Prompt and timely submission of homework and assignments lead to better grades, a more fulfilling experience at school, and better preparation for future courses, etc. Preparation for class enhances their experiences in class and contributes to a positive class atmosphere.

Cheating and plagiarism (copying or using the work of another person and representing it as your own) are a violation of academic integrity.

Extracurricular Activities and Off-Site Activities

Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege. It fosters commitment to, and pride in, our school. All staff members and students are encouraged to participate.

Respect and Care of Equipment and Facilities

Respect and care of equipment and facilities reflects a sense of school pride and sets an example for the students, parents / guardians, and members of the community.

Respect and care of equipment and facilities ensures that all present and future students will benefit from the school's and district's investments.

Vandalism

Vandalism or other destruction of school property is a serious breach of students' responsibility. Students and parents/guardians may be held financially responsible for damage caused by students. The School Act, Bill 67 (10), 1989 states:

If property of a board is destroyed, damaged, lost or converted by the intentional or negligent act of a student, the student and the student's parents/guardians are jointly and severally liable to the board in respect of the act of the student.

Student Expectations

1. Homework:

Students are expected to make every effort to complete homework assignments in a timely and orderly fashion.

2. Attendance:

Students are expected to attend school daily. Parents / guardians are expected to contact the school if students are to be absent, late, or picked up early from school. If students arrive late and

/ or leave early, students must check in with the Main Office before proceeding to class and before leaving the school. Absence from school and/or class without the knowledge and consent of parents/guardians and teachers is considered truancy. Truancy will be treated as a violation of the school Code of Conduct. If parents/guardians know that students will be absent and/or late, they are asked to give teachers early notification.

3. Indoor/Outdoor Shoes

Elementary school students are expected to have one pair of non-marking indoor shoes (to be worn exclusively inside the school building). Upon arrival at the school, elementary school students are asked to remove their outdoor shoes and put on their indoor shoes. During outside activities, the students wear their outdoor shoes. It is preferable for secondary students to wear indoor shoes as well.

4. Leaving School Grounds

Students are expected to remain on school grounds during school hours unless parents / guardians have given the Principal, Vice Principal, or Principal Designate verbal and / or written permission indicating students are allowed to leave. Secondary school students may leave school grounds during lunch provided their parents / guardians have given their permission. Students who choose to leave school grounds are expected to return on time.

5. Personal Property

Students who ride bicycles to school are expected to place them in a secure area for the duration of the school day. A bicycle helmet is to be worn as required by law. Please remember that you are not allowed to ride your bicycle on school property. Snowmobiles and ATVs are not allowed on school grounds at any point in time. Skateboards are not to be ridden on school property.

Dease Lake School Lunch Break Protocol

Food is to be consumed in designated areas. In all cases, everyone is responsible to ensure these areas are clean and free of garbage.

Expectations include:

- eating in designated areas
- use of microwaves and kettles in a safe and appropriate manner
- returning chairs to designated areas
- returning tables to designated areas
- cleaning tabletops
- ensuring all garbage gets to garbage receptacles

No supplies are to be removed from the Foods Room unless directly supervised by a staff member.

Personal Electronic Devices Usage

Dease Lake School promotes a professional school environment and effective interactive communication. There will be no use of personal electronic devices during class time. Laptops and iPads are made available to students by the school.

Students can use their personal electronic devices before and after school, as well as during their lunch break.