Tatsikiisaapo'p Middle School Student & Parent Handbook 2024-2025



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Kainaiyssini

Kainayssini The Creator put on this earth all peoples with a unique culture and language to occupy a specific territory of land to fulfill His purpose for creation. Thus WE, THE MEMBERS OF KAINAAWA, a member of the Blackfoot Confederacy; speak the Blackfoot language; among other things, hold Ninaistako and Mookowanssini as sacred monuments; which among other beliefs include the Sundance; socially and tribally organized into extended families, clans and tribes; govern ourselves according to customs given to our people by the Creator; presently occupying the Blood Indian Reserve lying between the Belly and St. Mary's rivers; To maintain ourselves under the guidance of our Creator; To initiate a sense of responsibility to our people and nation; To continue to seek better means of survival; To provide for an orderly and accepted way of carrying on our culture; To allow for freedom of expression and diversity; and in general, to promote the rights, powers and welfare of our Nation; under the powers we hold as a sovereign people, do ordain and establish the "TRIBAL SYSTEM."

DECLARATION OF THE ELDERS OF THE BLOOD INDIAN NATION

WHEREAS the Declaration of the First Nations, as adopted by the Chiefs of Canada to which our Chief, Roy Fox, is a signatory, express the philosophy of the Elders of the Blood Indian Nation:

AND WHEREAS the Elders recognize that the Blood Indian Nation has always existed as a Nation from time immemorial;

AND WHEREAS the Elders recognize the trust held by our Chief and Council to protect our inherent rights given to us by our Creator for our children and for generations to come; AND WHEREAS the Elders are desirous of ensuring that the Chief and Council of our Nation are responsible for and accountable to the membership of the Blood Indian Nation as represented by a responsible Indian Government;

NOW THEREFORE, the Elders of the Blood Indian Nation hereby declare that the leaders of our Nation ensure to its membership the following:

- 1. To ensure that the spirit and intent of Treaty # 7 be fulfilled led and protected, of which our ancestors were signatories.
- 2. The protection and assertion of our inherent right to govern ourselves and the right to self determination be maintained by codifying those traditional and customary values and beliefs as practiced ed by our people, who recognize the principle of the Supremacy of the Creator.
- 3. To fulfill the obligations and responsibilities entrusted to the Chief and Council by the membership in working toward the best interests of the Blood Indian Nation.
- 4. To enhance the pursuit and retrieval of alienated rights and lands that rightfully belonged to our Nation and safeguard ALL rights and lands against present and future intrusion.
- 5. To protect and maintain our aboriginal rights, and especially those aboriginal rights to our lands.

THE ELDERS OF THE BLOOD INDIAN NATION HEREBY RATIFY AND CONFIRM THIS DECLARATION

Important Contact Information:

TMS School Phone Number: (403) 737-2846

TMS Fax Number: (403) 737-2883

P.O Box 729 Cardston, Alberta ToK oKo

Websites:

TMS: https://tms.kainaied.ca

Facebook

Principal & Associate Principal's Message

Oki,

The staff of Tatsikiisaapo'p Middle School welcome new students, continuing students and parents/guardians to the 2024-2025 school year! We are excited and committed to partnering with parents/guardians and the community in providing an educational experience that meets the needs of your child. Our focus is and always will be 'student success'.

We recognize that our students learn in diverse ways and at varying speeds. Hence, this is reflected in our planning, preparation, classroom organization, management, and differentiation of instruction used by our professional staff. We will continually apply the principles and concepts of our elders' declaration KAINAYSSINI to help guide us in our academic journey. In addition, a number of Blackfoot cultural activities/spiritual teachings will be implemented to enhance the learning holistic experience of your child.

We have a number of activities planned for the school year. Please take the time to review with your child the monthly calendar of activities and note important dates throughout the school year.

Let us work together to create a climate of student success at Tatsikiisaapo'p Middle School. Our entire staff maintains an open door policy and is willing to work with you in meeting the needs of your child. Please feel free to stop in at the school or call, email, if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Ii'ss'moot'stakii, Jackie Davis, Principal Miistakiaakii, Shawna Goodstriker, Associate Principal

WHAT WE BELIEVE AT TATSIKIISAAPO'P

"MOKAMO'TSIPAITAPII'YSSINI" - TO LIVE A HIGHLY PRINCIPLED LIFE

At Tatsikiisaapo'p Middle School, our programs are an educational and developmental response to the diverse characteristics and needs of our middle school years of children usually ages 10-14. The dramatic growth and emotional changes we observe in our children requires flexible and varied programs. We believe in these key areas for student success:

- Participation in hands on, purposeful and culturally relevant learning experiences
- Creating positive relationships with peers, teachers, and other adults
- Being actively involved in community, feeling supported by family and parents/guardians

To our students: Tatsikiisaapo'p is a special place where you can learn the skills for your future. Tatsikiisaapo'p has adopted the phrase "our school is a sacred place of learning." We expect students and staff to show and practice respect for one another in our school community as it is designed from our own Kainai culture as Nitsitapii. The tipi is the central structure in the center of our school inside the library. The library is the center of learning and knowledge. Each of the classrooms is located around the tipi and the knowledge and attitudes we display on a daily basis reflect the values our elders and ancestors have passed on to us. These "tipi values" are included in this handbook. The name of our school "Tatsikiisaapo'p" literally means middle plume: the only straight feather on the tail of the eagle. Each one ofus in the school is as unique as that straight feather. Each one ofus has a right to be here. Each one ofus has responsibilities that ensure these rights are maintained. These responsibilities are outlined in this agenda/handbook.

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT:

Based on the foundation of KAINAYSSINI and in collaboration with Community, Elders, Parents, and Educators.

We provide the highest standards and quality of education for all our students. Each child is loved, accepted and safe within our school.

VISION STATEMENT:

To become the first choice of an educational provider for all middle school aged children of Kainai - Blood Tribe.

Aakamanistyiikahkiminiya Kokoosinnooniksi: We will continually encourage and teach our children.

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Blackfoot Prayer:

Oki I'taamikskananaotonni (Good Morning) I'taamikisistsiko (Good Day) Hakatsimo'hkao'pa (Let us Pray)

Ayo Ninna Ihsipaitapiiyo'pa Kitsiiksimotsimatsimmohpinnaan Isspommookinnaan Anoohka Ksistsikoihka Kimmokinnaan Ai'stamattsookinnaan Soka'piiyi Ikkina'piiyi Mokamo'ta'piiyi Ayo kimma'tookinnaan Ninnaniksi Niksisstsinnaaniksi Naahsinaniiks Oki Kaamotaani Misamipaitapiiysini

Blackfoot Values:

September - Respect - Inna'kootsiisin October - Listen - Iiyisstsiiyit November - Obedience - Sapa'tsima'pssin December - Kindness - Kimmapiipitsin January - Humility - Niita'pi'kinapiipitsin February - Love - Iniiyi'takssin March - Thankfulness - Aakomomotsiisin April - Sharing - Isspommootsisin May - Wisely/Aware - Kakiosin June - Encouragement - Iikahkiminiya

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TMS Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

Ninna Piiksi - Mike Bruised Head (PAC Chair) Jay Cross Child Gloria Ann Weasel Head Ivy Ann Big Head



TMS Staff List:

Administrators:

Principal, Ii'ss'moot'stakii Jackie Davis <u>jackie.davis@kbesl.ca</u> **Associate Principal**, Miistakiaakii <u>shawna.goodstriker@kbesl.ca</u> **Admin Assistant**, Vernica Leduke <u>ronnie.leduke@kbesl.ca</u>

LST (Learning Support Teacher), Elise Bourget, elise.bourget@kbesl.ca

FSLC (Family Support Learning Counselor)

Verda Weasel Head, verda.weaselhead@kbesl.ca

LJ Good Eagle, jj.goodeagle@kbesl.ca

MHRSW (Mental Health Resource Support Worker)

Larrissa Wells, <u>Iarissa.wells@kbesl.ca</u>
I'kottsiiksistiko, William Chief Calf, <u>williamtyler.chiefcalf@kbesl.ca</u>
Ksisskstakii, Lacy Devine, <u>Iacy.devine@kbesl.ca</u>

Teachers

Grade 6 Team:

Siipiipootakii, Olivia Tail Feathers, <u>olivia.tailfeathers@kbesl.ca</u>
Itsikiistapoyii, Rudy Black Plume, <u>rudy.blackplume@kbesl.ca</u>
Suzette Atoa, <u>suzette.atoa@kbesl.ca</u>
KB Singh, <u>kb.singh@kbesl.ca</u>

Grade 7 Team:

Nistitainiskim, Lisa Wadsworth, <u>lisa.wadsworth@kbesl.ca</u> Karla Colenutt, <u>karla.colenutt@kbesl.ca</u>

Grade 8 Team

Martha Ford, <u>martha.ford@kbesl.ca</u>
Lincoln Irwin, <u>lincoln.irwin@kbesl.ca</u>
Darrell Murray, <u>darrell.murray@kbesl.ca</u>

Blackfoot Teacher:

Jenny Bruised Head, jenny.bruisedhead@kbesl.ca

P.E Teacher:

Iitaissoyio'si, Austen McDougall, austen.mcdougall@kbesl.ca

Educational Assistants:

Pokaakii, Sheryl Day Chief, <u>sheryl.daychief@kbesl.ca</u>

Aapiiohkitopii, Toby Goodstriker, <u>toby.goodstriker@kbesl.ca</u>

Sky Mountain Horse, <u>sky.mountainhorse@kbesl.ca</u>

Smokee Goodstriker, <u>smokee.goodstriker@kbesl.ca</u>

Security

Sikaapsski Horton Weasel Fat, horton.weaselfat@kbesl.ca

0&M:

Bert Mistaken Chief, <u>bert.mistakenchief@kbesl.ca</u>
Deanna Eagle Plume, <u>deanna.eagleplume@kbesl.ca</u>
Ikkisstaa, Chad Wells, <u>chad.wells@kbesl.ca</u>

General Information:

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Grading for the report cards will be calculated on a percentage basis and used for the achievement in January and June:

85 - 100%

75-84%

60 - 74%

Students must be working to the best of their abilities in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. This includes sports, earned field trips, and other school-related activities.

Special circumstances must be brought to the attention of the Principal and/or Associate Principal.

GENERAL RULES

Here at Tatsikiisaapo'p we emphasize our Blackfoot Values that are demonstrated each month. Our cultural values and practices have always sustained our people. Our Blackfoot values are interconnected and strengthened through living and learning. We believe our Blackfoot values are essential to life-long learning.

Students and staff are expected to show good manners.

The most important reason for school is to improve skills by attending all classes.

A. Complete school assignments and do assigned homework. Homework is an an important part of the learning process. It reinforces the classroom lessons and teaches independent study skills and intellectual curiosity. Carefully planned homework assignments promote positive communication between parents, students and the school.

- I. Class time is for working on assignments and learning the lessons presented.General daily homework guidelines are: grade six: 45-60 minutes, grade seven and eight: 60-90 minutes.
- 2. Be on time and prepared for classes. Students are expected to have all necessary supplies (pencils, pens, binder, and paper) and books for each class.
- 3. Plan by knowing the class schedule and getting your books/supplies out of your lockers before the bell rings.
- 4. Students should not be in the hallways during class times. Teachers and

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students are responsible to ensure class time is quality time, with hall passes or signed agendas being used if it is necessary to leave the classroom.

A. Homework and class work: responsibilities for completing schoolwork are as follows:

TMS 2024-2025 Extra Curricular School Activities

Sports:

- Cross Country Running
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Track and Field
- Badminton

School activities:

- Fine Arts ie., art, music, writing, theatre
- Mental Health programming
- Drumming/Dancing
- Leadership Building
- Traditional Cooking
- Boys and Girls Support Groups
- Land Based Learning
- Blackfoot Language and Cultural Programs
- 3-D Model Making

Tatsihiisaapo'p Middle School Rules, Policy, and Regulations

KBE Working Group Drug and Alcohol Policy & Procedures Draft June 2023

Our goal is to keep our schools drug and alcohol free. We strive to provide a safe and caring learning environment, therefore no illicit drugs or alcohol (Any substances that are illegal for sale or possession to anyone under 18 years of age) will not be tolerated. A School Administer is responsible for contacting the parent/guardian to advise them of the incident. To ensure optimum learning time for our students your caregiver support is required.

First Offense: Any student caught using, in the possession of or in the presence of drugs, alcohol and vaping devices that contains an illegal substance, shall be suspended for between 1 – 4 days. School Administrators reserve the right to administer an in-school program option at their discretion, based on unique circumstances. Guardians will be notified via phone call and letter and will be asked to pick students up. If this is not possible, students may be transported home, depending on the circumstances, or remain in an in-school suspension until the end of the school day. The student may return home using the bus if that is their typical means of transportation. Guardians must be present on the day of completion of suspension for reinstatement conditions by school administrators.

Aisiimohki (Discipline) Policy

- (a) When the school administration has a reasonable belief that the student may have an illicit or illegal substance in their possession, a search will take place by appropriate school officials or police, and may include their person, locker or other personal belongings at the school.
- (b) As required by law, illicit drugs or alcohol will be turned over to the police.
- (c) Children's Services will also be notified.
- (d) Based on the nature of the illicit substance, a suspension beyond 4 days may be administered if deemed necessary.
- (e) In order for the student to return to regular class and school activities the parent/guardian and student will participate in an appropriate program or resource outlined by the school (i.e. Aisiimohki Circle, Health & Wellness Class, as examples)
- (f) Suspension also includes any extracurricular activities that the student is scheduled to participate in during the suspension.
- (g) The participants will develop a student success plan.
- (h) School representatives, guardians and students will meet 30 days following the interventions to evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the support plan.

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(i) Further recommendations may be provided at that time.

Second Offense: A student found in possession of, or in the presence of, illicit drugs or alcohol a second time will receive immediate 5 days out of school suspension. The student may return to an in-school suspension after it is confirmed by the school that the student has begun counseling/approved elder sessions verified by the therapeutic support person(s).

- a) The student and guardian consent to ongoing communication between the school administration and agency representatives that verify ongoing participation in therapy is occurring. Counseling options include, but not limited to: (KHS FSLC, Kainai Wellness, Key Connections, or KHS Elder In-Residence)
- b) Reinstatement to regular classroom and school activities will resume upon successful progress of therapy/ approved elder sessions as reported by the service provider to the school.
- C) The Student Success Plan will be reviewed and updated

Failure to successfully complete the recommendations outlined will result in a continued suspension from in-school learning as well as any and all extra-curricular school activities, which will be respected by all KBE schools.

- 3. For a third offense in the same school year the student will be suspended immediately and Recommended for Homeschooling/alternative learning environment and may be referred for indefinite suspension upon review.
- 4. Student(s) caught selling or receiving goods and services for drugs and alcohol will be suspended immediately and referred to the Kainai Board of Education for expulsion. The proper authorities (Children's Services, Police etc.) will be notified.

Student:	Date:	
Parent/Cuardian	Date:	

No cell phone policy

August 30, 2024

Important Notice: No Personal Mobile Devices Allowed in KBE Schools for the 2024/2025 School Year

Date: August 30, 2024

Attention KBE Students, Parents, and Guardians,

To ensure our students can reach their full academic potential, minimizing distractions in the classroom is essential. As mandated by Ministerial Order #14/2024, personal mobile devices will not be permitted in any Kainai Board of Education schools, starting September 3, 2024.

Kainai Board of Education Schools Affected:

Kainai High School (KHS)
Tatsikiisaapo'p Middle School (TMS)
Kainai Alternate Academy (KAA)
Saipoyi Community School (SCS)
Issoitapi Elementary School (IES)

Cameron Shade Superintendent, Kainai Board of Education

Reference:

Ministerial Order #14/2024: "An order establishing standards to limit children's and students' use of personal mobile devices and access to social media in Alberta's K-12 schools."

https://kainai.tngl.dev//assets/618068bb-904e-4882-82ad-db29b60a47a4.pdf?download

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

And Contract For Student

The goal of our schools is to keep our campus drug/alcohol free. The schools will strive to provide a safe and caring environment for all students. The school will not tolerate drugs and alcohol within the school setting.

To ensure optimum learning for our students, your parental support is required.

This policy is in co-operation with other agencies to assist our students with prevention and intervention activities such as the use of the Hismiimohki program.

SUSPENSION POLICY

- 1.1 Any student caught using, in the possession of, or in the presence of drugs or alcohol shall be suspended for five (5) school days. Parents/guardians will be notified and must be present for reinstatement conditions, i.e., Aisiimohki program.
- 1.2 As required by law, confiscated drugs and alcohol shall be turned over to the police. Charges pending depends on each individual case.
- 1.3 Student and parent participation is required in drug, counseling, education and group sessions. I.e., Aisiimohki & NNADAP programming. The resource participation is consisted of the following:
 - I. Member of B.T.R.
 - 2. Elders
 - 3. Members of outpatient program, i.e., NNADAP
 - 4. School Counselor
 - 5. Young Offender Probation Officer
 - The student is required to contact Program for an appointment; as steed in the Suspension letter.
- 1.4 Students will not be allowed to participate on overnight field trips.
- 2.1 A student caught on a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the school year.

2.2 Reinstatement will be accepted only if proof of treatment from an accredited institution is
documented.
I.e. Kainai Adolescent Treatment Center
Blood Tribe Youth Ranch
Wood's Home
Pound-Maker's, etc.
2.3 Child Welfare agencies will be notified for certain cases as mandated by law. (i.e. age, menta capabilities)
3.1 For a third offense, in the same year, a student will be suspended with a recommendation to
the Board for expulsion.
4.1 Drug Trafficking:
If a student has been caught trafficking, he/she will be suspended indefinitely and police will be notified. The KBE Board will be notified and student recommended for expulsion.
4.2 Home schooling is the only alternative to continuing education.
Date:
Parent Signature:
Student Signature:

AINAIHKA'SI BULLYING BEHAVIOUR POLICY

And Contract for Students

The goal of our schools is to keep our campus "**Bully**" free. The schools shall strive to provide a **safe**, **caring and learning** environment for all students.

Bullying is a form of harassment of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical violence and attacks, racially or ethnically based verbal abuse, gender based put downs, verbal taunts, name calling, emotional abuse, extortion or stealing of money or possession a social outcasting, any of which lies on them by written, verbal or electronically transmitted communication: indirectly or directly will be grounds to apply the procedures of this policy.

Parental and community support is required for this policy to ensure optimum and positive learning time for all our students. This policy is in cooperation with other agencies and programs such as the Aisiimhoki Program, Kainai Wellness, Blood Tribe Police Services, Community Corrections, Kainai Youth Council and BT Recreation and Parks.

Suspension Policy

- I.I When it is deemed that a student is bullying he/she shall be suspended depending on the type and severity of the bullying activity. Parents/guardians shall be notified and must be present for reinstatement conditions. The **Alberta School Act** maybe implemented regarding the section referring to "**Disturbing the Peace**". All incidents will be documented.
- 1.2 As required by law, depending on the severity of the type of bullying and the effects of the bullying situation, the police shall be contacted for further investigating and/or counseling. Charges will be pending, depending on each individual case and KBE will be contacted.
- 1.3 Students/family must participate in anger management counseling and pass an anger management course. Recommendations for reinstatement from counselors and if required, further counseling from other counseling agencies Support services to be provided for all parties.
- 2.1 A student caught or deemed to be bullying for a second time shall receive an automatic suspension with possibility of being placed on home schooling.

2.2 Reinstatement will be accepted on the	completion of suspension	and/or home schooling
program.		

- 2.3 Reinstatement shall require a proof of treatment from a counseling agency on anger/bullying behavior with counselors recommendation or reinstatement.
- 3.1 For a third offense, in the same school year, a student shall be suspended with a recommendation to the school board for expulsion.
- 3.2 Home schooling on a long term basis will be the only alternative to continuing education if a third offense has been committed. Appeals to be assessed by KBE.
- 4.1 Threats Acts of Violence Gangsterism

Any student deemed to have made a threat, caused physical harm or gang related behavior against a student or staff member shall be suspended indefinitely and police shall be notified. The Kainai Board of Education will be notified and the student shall be recommended for expulsion.

Date:	 	
Parent Signature:		
Student Signature:		