



Ahms Tah Ow School

Culture, Tradition, & Education

HANDBOOK

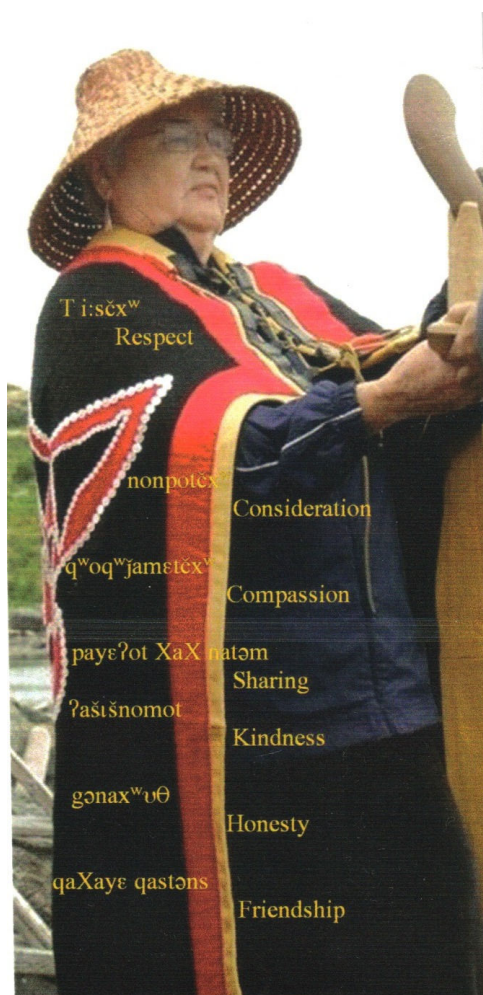
For Students and Community Members

2008/2009

AHMS TAH OW

Sliammon word for
cultural teachings that promote
life-long learning

The First Nations Programs of School District No. 47 (Powell River) ensures that all students are given an opportunity to learn about and value our language, traditions, and culture.



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Mission Statement

Ahms Tah Ow School is dedicated to providing educational and cultural opportunities for the Sliammon First Nations people by empowering community members to achieve their goals.

We believe the maintenance and enhancement of culture contributes to positive self-esteem and therefore encourages participation in the learning environment.

We will honour and respect the traditional tah-ow beliefs of our elders.

Ahms Tah Ow School will provide a meaningful and balanced curriculum bringing the uniqueness of our culture into an educational setting.

Ti:sčx^w

(Respect)

Educational Philosophy

A guiding principle of our school is to develop pride in self and culture, to be used as a basis of strength from which to face life's challenges.

At Ahms Tah Ow we endeavor to nurture the four dimensions of a healthy, strong and whole person: (mental, spiritual, physical and emotional.)

pay ε ?ot XaX nat əm

(Sharing)

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Program Description

Ahms Tah Ow School provides educational, cultural and recreational programming to Sliammon First Nations community members. Ahms Tah Ow School is partnered with Vancouver Island University—Powell River Campus to provide educational services such as assessment and career planning.

Students have the opportunity to work towards the following educational goals:

- Academic Upgrading for high school graduates
- Completion of Grades, 10,11, 12
- Regular Dogwood Graduation
- Adult Dogwood Graduation

Other activities include language classes, work experience, employment readiness skills, life skills and recognized certification programs (Food Safe, First Aid, SuperHost, etc.) Various cultural and recreational activities as requested by students are offered. Elders and community members are encouraged to contribute to the delivery of culturally relevant programming.

Ahms Tah Ow School provides a learning environment that allows students to set individual goals, and learn independently at their own pace. Courses are delivered in a variety of ways including computer managed courses and learning packages. Direct tutorial support is available from qualified staff. Some group Math and English lessons are provided.

Students who are motivated to get an education and who are mature enough to work in a self-paced, adult environment have a greater chance of success.

Ahms Tah Ow School has continuous intake throughout the school year. Four formal reports are issued during the school year.(November, February, April, June). Individual and group counseling is available.

Program Goals

- Provide access to relevant education
- Provide access to traditional Sliammon knowledge, culture and values
- Increase availability to recreational and physical activities
- Progress towards healthy living, healthy life style choice and self- reliance.
- Establish and maintain a relationship between the elders and youth in our community
- To encourage students to be active members of their communities

Admission Requirements

- Students **16** years of age and older are eligible to apply.
- Students must make a commitment to attend

Application Process

Students currently enrolled in the school system:

1. An Ahms Tah Ow referral form is completed with a school counselor and signed by an administrator from applicant's current high school.
2. An Ahms Tah Ow application form is obtained from Ahms Tah Ow and a student must participate in an interview with Ahms Tah Ow staff. Ideally, the student should be accompanied by their parent/guardian.
3. A screening committee will determine suitability of individual student placement at Ahms Tah Ow.
4. Once accepted, students will develop a Personal Learning Plan describing their personal learning and behaviour goals.
5. A Performance Contract may be required, and will be decided on a personal basis.

Students who are currently suspended under school district policy will not be permitted to register at Ahms Tah Ow.

Students out of school (withdrawn) for a minimum of 3 months:

1. An Ahms Tah Ow application form is completed and a student must participate in an interview process.
2. An English/Math assessment may be required to determine grade placement and possible upgrading.
3. A Screening Committee will determine suitability of student placement at Ahms Tah Ow.
4. Once accepted, students will develop a Personal Learning Plan describing their personal learning and behaviour goals.
5. A Performance Contract may be required, and will be decided on an individual basis.

Code of Conduct

It is important that all students follow a code of conduct that promotes respect, dignity and safety for all people. Everyone is expected to respect others at all times by:

- using appropriate language
- being courteous in word and action

Some Tah-ow guidelines of behaviour as taught by our elders include:

- Work hard every day.
- Always work toward achieving and maintaining peace and harmony.
- Do not get involved in arguments because that is not the way of our People
- Constant communication is crucial to our well being as a community.
- Respect your elders and other people.
- Do not be a greedy or stingy person. Share the earth's possessions.

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Drug and Alcohol Policy

As per School District No. 47 (Powell River) Regulation 6146.1, no drugs or alcohol are allowed on school premises. Further, it is prohibited to attend school under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Offences will be dealt with according to school district rules (see Appendix A)

Specific School Rules

Classroom Expectations

Students are responsible for their own learning and for maintaining a quiet classroom environment.

Computer Use

During class time, school computers are **only** to be used to complete assignments or write tests.

Electronic Devices

Music volumes should be respectful of others.

Kitchen

Students are responsible for doing their own dishes and for keeping the kitchen area tidy.

Smoking

Students should be at least 10 feet away from the front door (either at the foot of the stairs or around the corner on the ramp).

Telephone

Students need permission to use the telephone.

Text Books

All text books are to remain in the school unless students have permission from the teacher and have signed them out.

Visitors

All visitors must check in with a staff member.

Attendance Policy/Procedure

Students are expected to attend school for a minimum of 15 hours per week. We require a commitment from our students to maintain their attendance and academic performance. Students who have been absent with no explanation for three (3) weeks will be sent a letter asking if they intend to return. If they say no or do not reply within one (1) week they will be withdrawn. Withdrawn students will have the option of reapplying after one (1) month and the completion a work package.

We appreciate students phoning the school and letting us know when they are not able to attend. Underage students who are absent and do not contact the school will be phoned daily. Adult students will be phoned after a week of unexplained absences.

Academic Performance

Students are required to complete and hand in 2-5 assignments per week to ensure minimum progress. Students with continued problems of poor academic performance may be withdrawn.

Current School-Wide Recognition/Incentives

Students serve as significant role models for each other. To this end, school-wide recognition/incentives currently being used to acknowledge specific student accomplishments at Ahms Tah Ow are:

- \$50.00 for each course completed within 12 months of starting.
- For every 80 hours of attendance per month, students will receive 1 entry for a major draw to be held at the end of each semester.

Field Trips

Students have an opportunity to participate in a yearly field trip if their attendance is good and they contribute to fundraising efforts.

Hours of Operation

9:00 am – 4:00 pm.....Monday through Friday

Courses Available at Ahms Ah Ow 2008-2009

Accounting 11	Essentials Math 10
Accounting 12	Essentials Math 11
Art 10-12	Family Studies 12
Biology 11	First Nations 12
Biology 12	Geography 12
Calculus 12	History 12
CAPP 11/12	Information Tech 11
Chemistry 11	Mathematics 9
Chemistry 12	Mathematics Basics
Communications 11	Physics 11
Communications 12	Physics 12
Computer Basics	Physical Ed. 12
Data Management 12	Planning 10
Digital Media Development 11	Principles of Math 10
Earth Science 11	Principles of Math 11
English 9	Principles of Math 12
English 10	Science 9
English 11	Science 10
English 12	Social Studies 10
English Literature 12	Social Studies 11
Entrepreneurship 12	Visual Arts: Media Arts 11

School Calendar 2008-2009

Days in Session	194
Days of Instruction	187
Number of school week	40

Tuesday, September 2, 2008	School Opens
Monday, September 22, 2008	Non-Instructional Day
Monday, October 13, 2008	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, October 24, 2008	Provincial Pro-D Day
Monday, November 10, 2008	School Based Pro-D Day
Tuesday, November 11, 2008	Remembrance Day
December 22, 2008 to January 2, 2009	Winter Vacation
Monday, January 5, 2009	Schools reopen after Winter Vacation
Friday, January 23, 2009	District Pro-D Day
Monday March 9, 2009	Non-Instructional Day
April 6 - 17, 2009 inclusive	Spring Vacation, includes Good Friday Easter Monday and one Pro-D Day
Monday, April 20, 2009	Schools reopen after Spring Vacation
Tuesday, April 14, 2009	School Based Pro-D
Monday, May 18, 2009	Victoria Day
Wednesday, June 10, 2009	District Planning Day
Friday, June 26, 2009	Year-end Administrative Day

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-Appendix A-

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.47 (POWELL RIVER)
REGULATION

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE, continued

ITEM NO. 6146.1 (R)
PAGE NO. 3of4
APPROVED: November 8, 1994
REVISIONS: April 10, 2006
REVIEWED: April 10, 2006
CROSS REFERENCES:
HEALTH 2341 (P)
SUBSTANCE ABUSE
2341.7 (R)

Drug and Alcohol Offences

Students K — 7 will be consequence on an individual basis. The consequence will be therapeutic in nature with minimal loss of instructional time. Secondary students will be given one chance to rehabilitate their drug use. Drug infractions carry over each year Grades 8 - 12.

First Offence (Secondary)

The principal or designate will automatically impose an indefinite suspension until a meeting is arranged between the Parent(s)/ Guardian(s), student, and the School Administration will determine consequences for the infraction. The meeting will be held within ten (10) days of the infraction. The first time offender, at the School Administration's discretion, may receive a one month suspension or more, be required to attend drug and alcohol counseling, complete assignments related to the offence and complete all school assignments. The student will have support from the itinerant hospital homebound teacher. The student's parent(s)/ guardian(s) will also be made aware that any further offence will result in automatic removal from a regular program. The student will not be re-admitted to school until all appointments are met and assignments are complete.

If the Parent(s) /Guardian(s) wish to appeal the decision of the School Administration, the Board will meet with the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and student within ten (10) days of the original suspension.

Second Offence (Secondary)

The principal or designate will automatically impose an indefinite suspension until a meeting is arranged with the Committee of the School Board. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and student must meet with the Committee of the School Board to determine the consequences of any offence. At the discretion of the Board a second time offender will undergo extensive drug and alcohol counseling. At the discretion of the Board the student will be referred to an alternate path for his/her education. At the discretion of the Board the student will remain with the alternate path for up to one calendar year. A student may only return to a regular program when he/she has a letter of recommendation from professional staff with the opinion that they are confident the student will not be using drugs/alcohol at school and is serious about his/her studies. In order to be re-admitted to a regular program, the student must meet with the Committee of the School Board for approval.

Third Offence:

Upon a student's third drug infraction between Grades 8 —12, the student will automatically be recommended for permanent expulsion.

The student and their parent(s)/guardian(s) will be required to meet with a Committee of the School Board to determine the terms of expulsion (an educational program will be provided if the student is under the age of 16)