



PARENT HANDBOOK 2024

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Congratulations!

Your child has been accepted into Grade 3 Reading University offered at Northwestern Polytechnic (formerly GPRC) from **July 2 to July 19!** This is a very exciting program for many reasons, the most important being the potential impact on your child's confidence and skills in reading.

The Reading University Program is 100% community funded, and this year there are well over 150 students eligible to attend. We are very grateful to all the generous donors from the Grande Prairie area for their support of Reading University and to Northwestern Polytechnic for hosting our program for the past more than a decade.

This program wouldn't be possible without the partnership of the three local school divisions: Peace Wapiti School Division, Grande Prairie Catholic School Division, and the Grande Prairie Public School Division. Reading University is a unique coalition of educators in what has been described as "the most successful tri-district initiative ever".

At Grade 3 Reading University small group instruction is the key. We have the good fortune of being able to boast an adult to student ratio of approximately 1:5. One teacher and one educational assistant work with 10 students on a variety of learning tasks specifically designed and created to increase reading and writing confidence, comprehension, decoding ability, accuracy, and fluency.

Children will have the opportunity to bring order and understanding to information by:

- ✓ Collecting and retrieving knowledge
- ✓ Understanding and sharing information
- ✓ Making judgements about the quality, relevance, usefulness of information
- ✓ Finding and understanding the relationships between ideas
- ✓ Applying and demonstrating knowledge

We are delighted that your child will be joining us for this exciting opportunity. Our first day will be Tuesday, July 2. We will wrap things up on Friday July 19 with a graduation ceremony and family BBQ at Northwestern Polytechnic. Please watch emails and follow Facebook for more details and exciting happenings of each day at RU 2024!

All information needed to start your child off in Reading University 2024 is included in this package. It is very important that you keep this document handy so that you have access to the phone numbers, email, and any programming details.

Thank you for the partnership and we look forward to working with your child this summer.



ATTENDANCE:

Reading University is targeted, focused literacy instruction for 14 days and therefore a child's success is dependent upon their attendance. It is our expectation that your child will attend RU each day, July 2 - July 19. In the event they are ill or have an appointment that requires them to be away for part of a day, please let us know. You will need to contact **both:**

- **First Student Bussing: 780-532-3545**
- **Text Reading University: 780-882-3184**

If your child is not at R U by 9:15 AM, we will be calling home to check on your child. The children's safety is critically important to us.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

If you wish to drive your child to and from Reading University each day, you are most welcome.

It is expected that parents will walk with their child to the cafeteria for drop off and pick up.

For students who will need bus transportation:

- Parents please call First Student @ 780-532-3545 to register for the bus
- First Student will then contact you with the details of pickup and drop-off
- Please ensure if your child is going to be absent on the bus, you contact First Student

Should someone else be picking up your child, please let us know by text or phone call. We cannot release your child to anyone else without your permission and we require picture ID before we send your child with anyone other than you.

DAILY SCHEDULE:

Reading University daily schedule may change from time to time; however, here is the basic daily overview. Students will cycle through 10 classes each day with breaks for lunch and snacks.

8:45: Buses arrive

9:00-12:00: Core learning activity centers, in small group instruction

Mid-morning snack provided for all students

12:00-1:00: LUNCH will be provided for all students, in 2 seatings

1:00-3:00: Core learning activity centers, in small group instruction

3:00: Students dismissed

*** Buses leave NWPT within 15 minutes of dismissal**

LEARNING STATIONS:

LISTEN UP! Students will continue to develop their listening skills through a variety of games and purposeful activities.

WORD PLAY Students will practice sentence writing beginning with basic structure and moving forward with adding descriptors, phrases and enhanced word choices.

WORD ATTACK Students will use and improve their phonemic awareness skills to increase their confidence in decoding unfamiliar words.

GUIDED READING Students will focus on developing reading strategies to support reading comprehension.

KIDZ NEWS Students will listen to and hear news articles from which they will develop questions and share their new-found knowledge.

LIBRARY Students will be challenged with a variety of picture books to enhance their inferencing skills.

JUST SAYIN! Students will practice and enhance their oral language skills using prepared scripts, prompts, jokes, and giving and receiving directions.

FRIED PHRASES Students will practice their decoding skills as they learn and practice the most frequently used words and phrases that occur in their reading.

GET ACTIVE (PE) Students explore a variety of cooperative physical activities and burn off excess energy with their friends.

TUNE IN (MUSIC) Students experience reading with all its rhythm, cadence, and movement. A very active station, students will enjoy being totally engaged in song, rhythm making and movement.

ODDS n 'ENDS TO KNOW:

Main Student Gathering Area:

The NWP cafeteria is the main gathering area for RU- meet in the AM at drop off, snack, lunch, pick up and dismissal at the end of the day.

Supplies:

Backpacks and water bottles will be provided as will all supplies needed for the program. Please ensure your child has running shoes for daily phys. ed outdoors.

Nutrition:

Daily lunches and snacks will be provided for the children. *If your child has special dietary requirements, then we ask that you send along a packed lunch and snacks to meet his/her needs.*

Field Trips:

There will be two field trips for students this year in their three-week RU experience- EXCITING!! We will be heading to Coles Book Store and swimming at Bear Creek Pool.

Graduation:

Students come to class on graduation day as usual. The graduation ceremony is at the Douglas Cardinal Theatre at NWP and begins at 11:00. Parents and family are encouraged and welcome to attend and stay after for a family BBQ hosted by the Side Group.

** Parents are expected to take their children home, there is no bus service that afternoon.*