

2025 RU Parent Handbook

Congratulations!

Your child has been accepted into Grade 3 Reading University offered at Northwestern Polytechnic from July 7 to July 25! 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 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 Monday, July 7. We will wrap things up on Friday July 25 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 2025!

All information needed to start your child off in Reading University 2025 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.

Corinne J. Kruse, Principal
James Hudyma, Assistant Principal
Helen Neufeld, Dean of Students

Linda Side-, Co-founder
Rhonda Side, Co-founder

ATTENDANCE

Reading University is targeted, focused literacy instruction for 15 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 7 - July 25. 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

Daily Attendance: **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 require free 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 to let them know

Should someone else be picking up your child, please advise us 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**

2025 Reading University Learning Stations



Fried Phrases - Students will concentrate on their decoding skills as they learn and practice the most frequently used words and phrases that occur in their reading. A variety of fun, interactive activities will help foster their confidence and love of reading.

Word Play - Students will practice sentence writing beginning with basic structures and will move forward to add descriptors, phrases and enhanced word choices.

Tune In - Students will 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.

Listen Up - Students will continue to develop their listening comprehension skills through a variety of games and activities targeted to improve their understanding.

Picture This! (Library) - Students will be challenged to read beyond the text and make inferences from a variety of interesting and exciting picture books. They will reinforce good reading behaviours with their choices from the library collection.

Just Sayin' - Students will practice and enhance their oral language skills using prepared scripts and props, poetry, jokes and giving/receiving directions.

Reading Time - Students will develop and practice reading comprehension strategies that build upon their known skills with the guidance and support of their instructors.

KidzNews - Students will experience news articles from which they will learn to develop questions and share their new-found knowledge

Get Active - Students will explore a variety of cooperative physical activities and burn off lots of energy with their friends in the great outdoors (weather permitting).

Word Attack - Students will concentrate on their decoding abilities to increase the skills that help them learn, use and be comfortable with unfamiliar words in their learning.

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

ODDS n 'ENDS TO KNOW:

Field Trips: There will be two exciting field trips for students this year in their 3 week RU experience We will be heading to Coles Book Store and swimming at Bear Creek Pool.

Lunch and Snacks: 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.*

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.

Main 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.

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 as there is no bus service that afternoon.*

Reading University Contact;

Text 780-882-3184

