



# THUNDER VALLEY K-8



2017-2018

## Parent and Student Handbook

Dr. Karen Musick, Principal

Catrina Estrada, Assistant Principal

Evan Oldroyd, Assistant Principal

**School Address Building Hours Class Hours**

600 5<sup>th</sup> St. 7:45-3:45 K-8 8:20-3:20  
Frederick, CO 80530 AM Kinder 8:20-11:20  
PM Kinder 12:20-3:20

**Phone Numbers**

Thunder Valley K-8: 303-833-2456 St. Vrain Valley Schools: 303-776-6200

**Helpful Websites:**

Thunder Valley: <http://tvk8.stvrain.k12.co.us/>

St. Vrain Valley Schools: <http://www.stvrain.k12.co.us/>

Ceran (student homepage): <http://blogs.stvrain.k12.co.us/ceran/> *(This site has links to Classes, Google Apps, Infinite Campus, and much more.)*

### THUNDER VALLEY K-8 AT A GLANCE:

**Vision:** The highest academic achievement for all.

**Mission:**

Thunder Valley K-8 ensures the highest academic achievement for all through:

- o Academic Excellence
- o Strength of Character
- o Community Partnerships

**Raptors SOAR:** Students and staff at Thunder Valley strive to SOAR in all they do!

Safety – We act and speak in ways that keep our community emotionally and physically safe.

Ownership – We take personal responsibility for our learning and our behavior.

Academic Excellence – We demonstrate high levels of scholarship in our attitudes, habits, and achievement.

Respect – We all deserve to be respected so we demonstrate respect for everyone in our community.

**A K-8 Community of Learners** – At Thunder Valley, we believe our focus on student learning from Kindergarten through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will have a positive impact on the achievement of all students. In particular, the K-8 model fosters long term relationships between the school and families, eases transitions as students' progress through the grades, and provides unique opportunities for students to take leadership roles in the school. These factors, along with rigorous academic standards, will prepare students for success in high school and confidence as they enter college or other post secondary challenges.

## **FIVE KEYS TO SUCCESS AT SCHOOL:**

**Be at school on time every day:** Success in school (and life!) requires excellent attendance. We expect students to attend every day and ask that parents notify the school if a student is going to be absent. Students are allowed on campus at 8:10 each morning. Students arriving late to school must sign in at the attendance office. The school day ends at 3:20 and unless they are participating in a supervised activity, students need to leave campus by 3:30.

**Get involved:** Students who participate in extracurricular activities such as music, art, athletics, or other school clubs are:

- \* More likely to attend school regularly
- \* More likely to view teachers positively
- \* More likely to have a higher grade point average
- \* Less likely to engage in risky behavior
- \* Less likely to drop out

Thunder Valley will provide a wide range of opportunities and we hope every student will get involved!

**Stay organized:** Your school issued iPad (6th - 8th grades) is an important academic tool. Use it in every class, every day! It is expected that you will bring it to every class and keep it in good condition. Learn to use your iPad to check Infinite Campus, collaborate with other students, communicate with your teachers, and keep track of upcoming assignments.

**Raptors are Readers!** Reading is one of the most important factors in determining academic success. As you progress through high school and college, you will be expected to read to learn in all of your courses. We expect Thunder Valley students to be reading at home for 30 minutes every night.

**Communicate:** No one expects students to be successful on their own. The teachers and staff at Thunder Valley are here to help when you need us. However, please don't expect us to read your mind! Successful students ask questions when they are confused and seek assistance when they are unsure about the next steps. Additionally, it is critical that families support their student's education by taking an active role. Parents, please talk to your students about what they are learning in school and ask to see their school planner and homework on a regular basis. We expect to see all families at parent-teacher conferences, and parents are encouraged to contact teachers by phone or email if questions arise at other times.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

### **Grades:**

Class grades represent a picture of where the student is currently performing based on a weighted format. A grade is a measure of progress against the standard(s) and a measure of what a student knows and is able to do. Students in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will receive grades on a trimester schedule and students in grades 6 through 8 will receive grades on a quarter schedule. 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders will receive final grades (A, B, C, D, F) each quarter and a report card will be sent home. We will honor all students who earn a GPA of 3.0 or higher for each quarter.

**Homework:** Nightly homework is an expectation of all students during the week. Through practice and reading, students master knowledge, skills, and ideas; understand that learning continues outside of school; and learn to manage their time effectively.

**Lockers:** Students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be assigned a locker to store school related belongings. The lockers are the property of Thunder Valley and students are responsible for damaged lockers. The school

reserves the right to inspect lockers at any time. Students should not share lockers or their locker combination with other students for any reason.

**Parent Involvement:** Support from parents or other responsible adults in the home is critical to students' success. We hope to truly partner with you as your children attend Thunder Valley. Consider the following ways you may take an active role in realizing the Thunder Valley vision:

- Participate in the development and evaluation of learning goals at Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Think positively and critically about Thunder Valley, and contribute ideas that will help the school continue to flourish.
- Attend as many school events as possible every year to build an understanding of and connection to the Thunder Valley community
- Let your children know, in word and action, that education is important
- Help your children develop good study habits and pride in producing complete, quality and accurate work by:
  - Checking backpacks and/or folders consistently
  - Reinforcing that homework is required, important and an extension of school
  - Providing necessary supplies at home and at school to complete tasks
  - Providing a suitable time and place at home for their children to work on assignments
  - Adjusting family activity schedules as appropriate to complete assignments
- Expecting your children to attend school regularly
- Helping children arrive at school on time on a consistent basis
- Maintain an open dialogue with your child's teacher(s) in order to provide feedback and share in decision making
- Regularly reading the classroom and/or school newsletters, and checking the Thunder Valley website.
- Assisting in the classroom, office, lunchroom or on the playground
- Coordinating or volunteering at a school activity or function
- Joining Thunder Valley PTA

**Student Appearance and Dress Code:** While we value individuality and self-expression at Thunder Valley, we believe neat appearance and appropriate dress have a positive impact on students' attitude and behavior; two critical factors in determining academic achievement. Our desire is to encourage good grooming, neat appearance and good judgment with regard to dress. As with all decisions, when in doubt, students should be conservative in their dress and appearance.

Basic guidelines for appropriate school apparel include:

- All clothing must cover the traditionally private parts of the body including, but not limited to, the midsection, buttocks, back and breasts.
- Undergarments of any kind must be covered.
- Shorts and skirts should not be too short.
- Pants must be secure and not sagging to expose the undergarments or private areas.
- Hats, hoods and sunglasses are not to be worn in the building at any time.
- Graphic apparel is expected to be appropriate and not reference inappropriate behavior, language, action or substance use of any kind; threaten the safety or welfare of any person; or otherwise disrupt the teaching-learning process.

Non-compliance with the dress code will be addressed by staff. Our first efforts will always be to help students understand what constitutes appropriate dress and to help them locate acceptable clothing. They may be asked to call home for more appropriate clothing or issued alternative clothing for check out. If a student repeatedly

violates the dress code there will be additional disciplinary consequences. If you have further questions please refer to the [St. Vrain Valley School District Policy](#).

**Electronic Devices and/or Toys:** Toys (including spinners) are to be left at home, unless requested by teachers as part of learning projects. We recognize that there are many legitimate educational uses for electronic devices, and it is up to teacher discretion to decide if students may use E-readers, smart phones, or other devices for a particular school assignment. Students are expected to follow the directions of their teachers. If electronic devices are used inappropriately or become a distraction to learning, staff may confiscate the device and will return to students at the end of the day. In some instances, school administration may hold the device at school, until it can be picked up by a parent or guardian. In general, we discourage students from bringing expensive items (including electronics, jewelry, or cash) to school. Students in grades 6-8 will be utilizing their district issued iPads in all classes. This technology is a great tool to help students be engaged in the learning process. *Thunder Valley does not guarantee the security of any personal property and is not responsible for items that are stolen, lost, or confiscated.*

### **Safety is everyone's job**

- If a child walks to school, he/she needs to know the safest route. Please review this with them.
- If a child is brought to school in a private vehicle, he/she needs to see the adult model safe and respectful driving practices in the school zone. For the safety of all students, please observe posted signs for parking and drop off. **Please do not park in bus or fire lanes.**
- Students in 1st - 8th grades should be dropped off in the west parking lot and utilize the crosswalk that is supervised by our Campus Supervisor.
- Kindergarten students should be dropped off in the north parking lot and enter the kindergarten playground there. Please help us by reserving this north parking lot for kindergarten parents only.
- If a child rides the school bus, he/she needs to honor the bus rules.
- All students will begin their day on their respective playgrounds. When the bell rings, teachers will pick their students up from the playgrounds.

**Safe2Tell:** Students may use Safe2Tell to anonymously report any threats or unsafe activity. Safe2Tell is a safe, anonymous way to report any threats to a student's safety or the safety of someone else. Student ID's are printed with contact information if a student were to need to make an anonymous report and a link is included on our school website. To make a report you may call 1-877-542-7233 or submit a report online [safe2tell.org](http://safe2tell.org)

**Student Conduct and Discipline:** All students at Thunder Valley will follow the behavior and discipline procedures outlined in the [St. Vrain Valley School District's Code of Conduct](#). A copy will be provided to each family. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Code of Conduct please call the front office so we can arrange a meeting.

**School Closure:** Severe weather may cause school to be closed. Severe weather may also cause early dismissal. The school district website as well as local radio and TV stations will announce closings between 6:00 and 7:00 am. If no announcement is heard, assume that school will be in session.

**THUNDER VALLEY RAPTORS: SOAR WITH LEADERSHIP!**