

# Prairie Christian Academy

## Residence Handbook

2010-2011

Contact us at:  
Prairie Christian Academy  
Box 68, Three Hills, AB, T0M 2A0  
(403) 443-4220

**Memorial Hall 2nd Floor - Men's Dormitory**  
(403) 443-3008 (Office Phone)  
(403) 443-3022 (Hall Phone)  
**Men's Dean Cell (403) 443-0511 [pcahedean@yahoo.ca](mailto:pcahedean@yahoo.ca)**

**Dearing Hall 2nd Floor - Girl's Dormitory**  
(403) 443-3009 (Office Phone)  
(403) 443-3002 (Hall Phone)  
**Women's Dean Cell (403) 443-0512 [ladiesdean@gmail.com](mailto:ladiesdean@gmail.com)**



**Prairie Christian Academy**  
Christ-centred education since 1938  
[www.pca3hills.ca](http://www.pca3hills.ca)

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## **Prairie Christian Academy**

### **Residence Vision**

Our goal is to provide a “home away from home” that empowers students to take greater personal responsibility, with guidance, in making decisions that have a positive impact in their relationships with Jesus Christ, peers and those in authority over them. Through mentorship, discipleship, and role modeling our goal is to see students develop and maintain disciplines that will benefit them spiritually, academically and socially.

### **Residence Life**

Prairie Christian Academy has two residence facilities. The men’s is located on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in Memorial Hall and the women’s on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Dearing Hall. Although we have our own separate floors we have the unique opportunity of sharing this facility with students of Prairie Bible College. This provides occasions for our students to interact with the college students for games nights, concerts, and also enjoy some of the guest speakers who visit the college on a routine basis.

### **Residence Personnel**

There is one adult Residence Dean for each dormitory with a ratio of one Residence Assistant (RA) to every ten dormitory students. RAs are typically students attending Prairie Bible College or mature PCA students. However, they may also be young adults from the Three Hills Community. Nonetheless, they are passionate and genuinely concerned in the growth, maturation, and overall well-being of each and every student.

## **Spiritual Growth and Maturity Opportunities**

### **Individual Devotions**

A major part of this program is based on encouraging students to build their own foundation and discover what it means to have an intimate relationship with God through His son Jesus. We believe that this will happen when students begin to develop the discipline of spending time alone with God on regular basis. To help them with this our daily schedule from Monday thru Thursday includes a personal devotional time.

Personal devotional time is something that will also be modeled by the RAs who are more than willing to pray or discuss matters of Faith and life with the students any time. We are also happy to accommodate each student with devotional helps that caters to his or her interests should this type of guidance be desired.

### **Group Devotions**

Each week the students will take part in a group devotional time led by the Dean, an RA or guest speaker. This is intended to first establish basic beliefs with the students (What it means to be a Christian), and as the year progresses tackle relevant issues that young men and women face on a daily basis. This may, should they choose, also be a venue for students to share and pray with one another.

### **Thursday Chapels**

Each Thursday morning all students are required to attend chapel where there is a time of praise and worship. Throughout the year there are guest speakers who could be anyone from a student to a missionary who share their own personal testimony and struggles. This is also a time where students become aware of upcoming events that may have individual or community spiritual growth components.

## **Sunday Worship**

We understand that our students come from a wide variety of church backgrounds within the Christian Faith. To aid in this we want each student to feel as though they are a part of a church that not only ministers to their particular needs but provides a chance for them to become involved and use their gifts, talents and interests as a part of a local church community. Although we do require each student attend a church, which church they attend is up to them. We would invite parents to break some ground by meeting with their child to discuss which church might be their 'best fit' prior to arriving. We would also be more than willing to help each student make this decision. Below are a list of Three Hills' local and area churches to help you in this choice.

### **Three Hills and Area Church Information:**

#### Prairie Tabernacle Congregation

Pastor Tim Strickland

Phone: (403) 443-5858

PTC has a blended style of worship. The congregation is made up people of all ages that meets in the Prairie Christian Academy Elementary School.

#### Bethel Evangelical Missionary Church

Seeking Pastor

Phone: (403) 443-7239

Bethel is about 3 blocks from the dorm. It has a congregation of about 300. They have a blended style of worship and a popular youth program.

#### Mount Olive Evangelical Free Church

Pastor Rod Masterson

Phone: (403) 443-7779

Mount Olive is about a 15 minute walk from the dorm. Their worship style is blended. They have 2 services – 8:30 and 11:00. The youth program is very well attended with weekly Bible studies as well as other activities. Every second

Sunday night there is MSN – a contemporary worship service specifically designed for youth.

Victory Church – Pastor John Schaufele

Phone: (403) 443-7275

Victory Church is 3 blocks from the dorm. They have a contemporary charismatic style of worship.

St. Barnabas Anglican Church – led by layworkers

Phone: (403) 443-2754

The Anglican Church has a traditional liturgy and worship combined with preaching by local lay leaders and monthly visits by the presiding bishop.

Korean Church – Pastor Kim

Phone: (403) 443-5511

A congregation of Korean speaking people meet in the Three Hills United Church on Sunday afternoons. They enjoy a contemporary style of worship and also offer a variety of activities through out the week.

Linden Alliance – Seeking Pastor

Phone: (403) 546-3088

Located a 15 minutes drive from Three Hills, they have a contemporary style of worship. A number of Three Hills people attend this church, so there is a possibility of getting a ride to services.

### **Community Involvement and Other Events**

Aside from involvement in school/dorm related functions and activities students are also given the choice and encouraged to get involved in their local church or youth group. Accommodations to our regular dorm schedule can be made so that this is possible.

## **On and Off Campus Employment**

### **Part-Time Jobs**

Although we do not believe every student can handle this sort of commitment, part-time jobs can teach students responsibility and time/money management. Once a student finds opportunity for employment in town or on campus the student must have parental and Dean consent before taking on this responsibility. Should it appear that this is detrimental to academics or dormitory life, parents will be consulted and students may be required to quit or take time off until problems are corrected.

## **Residence Facilities**

### **Storage Rooms**

Luggage and personal items may be stored in one of the storage rooms located in the residences. Please note the following guidelines:

- Belongings are stored at the owner's risk and responsibility. Items stored for longer than a year and left unclaimed become Prairie Christian Academy property and will be disposed of at our discretion.
- Students who desire to have luggage or other items sent to them must cover all costs.
- The storage rooms are kept locked and may only be accessed with permission from the residence assistant or dean.

### **Laundry Facilities**

Students may wash laundry only during the appropriate times listed outside the laundry room and in accordance with the residence schedule. Students will be required to provide their own laundry supplies. Laundry is not to be left unattended.

## **Bicycle Storage**

Bicycles are to be stored on the racks outside of residence or in approved storage areas. They are not to be left in hallways or individual rooms.

## **Kitchens**

Each dorm is equipped with a kitchen for student use. Fire Regulations prohibit the use of heating or cooking elements within dorm rooms. Students are responsible for cleaning after each time they use the kitchen. Students should not leave the kitchen while food is being cooked. Each kitchen has a stove, fridge/freezer, and microwave. It is recommended that students mark their names on their food if they decide to store it in the fridge/freezer. Any food left for long periods of time may be thrown out.

## **Lounges**

Each dorm has a lounge provided for entertainment, relaxation, and computer/internet access. All equipment is intended for use by all students on the floor and must be treated with respect or is subject to removal. This is property of Prairie Christian Academy and may only be moved with the Dean's consent.

## **Telephones**

Extension phones are located on each floor of the dormitory. These may be used for on campus and local calling by dialing (9). Parents may also call anytime but are encouraged to refrain from calling during study hours, devotional time, and after lights out.

### **Memorial Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

#### **Boys Dormitory**

(403) 443-3022 (Hall Phone)

### **Dearing Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

#### **Girls Dormitory**

(403)443-3002(Hall Phone South)

(403) 443-3012 (Hall Phone West)

### **Garbage Disposal**

Garbage is to be disposed of in the dumpster at the rear of the dorm. Students are not to use the bathroom or kitchen garbage containers for their room garbage.

### **Room or Facilities Damage**

All students will be required to fill out an entrance assessment on their rooms in September outlining any pre-existing damage or defects. Students assume responsibility for any additional damage to their room. Students will be required to provide a \$200.00 damage deposit that will be returned at the end of the year check-out less damages incurred. Students are also required to clean their rooms at the end of the year, any student failing to do so will have up to \$100.00 deducted from their damage deposit, depending on the amount of cleaning required. Any student caught purposefully damaging or vandalizing their room or any other part of dorm/campus property may be suspended or expelled from the PCA Residence and will be required to pay for all repairs/replacement and labor cost.

Due to the damage that can be caused by hair dye to carpeting, it is expected that any colour alterations to hair be carried out in the washroom facilities.

Any student caught climbing out a dorm window will be required to pay a minimum \$25.00 fee as well as paying for any additional damage to the window. The same \$25.00 fine will be applied to any student caught removing any window or screen within the residence and can expect discipline for breach of security.

### **Room Decorations & Appliances**

Room decorations must be in accordance with dorm and Biblical standards. No permanent alterations to the room may be made. The doors may be decorated but wall space in the hallways must remain bare. Nothing should be attached to the ceiling or light fixtures. Nametags

must be kept on the doors and the Dean must approve any type of decorative lighting. No tacks, nails, “duct or masking tape” are permitted; only non-marking sticky tack may be used to hang posters and pictures.

Extension cords are permitted in rooms but they must remain uncovered. Due to fire hazard appliances such as electric blankets, hot plates, frying pans, coffee pots, toasters, and irons are not to be in individual rooms. Matches, lighters, candles, furniture polish, gasoline, butane, solvents, oil, or other flammable substances are also not permitted. Small refrigerators and hot water kettles with automatic shutoff are permitted.

### **Pets**

Students are not allowed to bring or acquire pets with the exception of fish and small lizards.

### **Sound Amplification Systems**

There will be no sub-woofers or guitar amplifiers permitted in individual rooms. There is simply no need for these types of systems in such a close living space. Students who bring amplifiers will be required to store them in the Deans office for use off campus.

### **Lounge Computers and Internet Use**

There are workstations provided in each of the lounges in the dorm. There is internet access on each of these computers, as well as a local wireless signal, which is filtered and monitored by technicians within Golden Hills School Division. Any student abusing the internet will lose the privilege for a period of time. Students may use these during study hour if they have homework that requires use of the computer or internet. Only Dean-approved internet use is allowed in individual rooms. Abuse of this will result in confiscation of the students’ computer.

Students are not allowed to use internet sticks or other means of accessing the internet on their computers apart from the Golden Hills monitored signal. Parents are encouraged to have accountability software or apps on internet enabled phones to reduce the risk of harmful internet use on such phones.

### **Room/Roommate Changes**

All room or roommate changes must be approved by the Dean. There will be no room changes permitted within the first month of school.

## **Weekly Residence Schedule and Expectations**

### **Wake-Up**

#### **Monday - Friday**

Students are responsible for getting up on their own and being out of the dorm by 8:30am. Students who are habitually late will be given additional accountability in the form of wake up calls. However this is a short term solution and students are expected to develop this discipline. Failure to respond may result in additional measures including more detention work and possible required attendance at breakfast. A long term problem in this area can lead to removal from the residence program.

### **School Day\Free Time**

#### **Monday – Friday**

**8:30am – 8:30pm**

During the school days students are under the direct supervision of teachers and administration. After school and until study hour is considered free time. Residence staff will partner with parents to find constructive alternatives during this time (sports, fine arts, part-time jobs, tutoring, etc.), however it is ultimately up to the individual residence student to handle this free time responsibly. During this time there will be no direct supervision, however a Dean and Resident Assistant are on call. This same approach is taken throughout the

weekend and reflects residence philosophy that students who attend PCA are ready to make decisions, with guidance, about free-time use for themselves.

## **Study Hours**

### **Monday – Thursday 8:30pm - 9:30pm**

A student whose mid-term or first semester report card show a course under 60% can expect no permissions given (except for required school activities such as sports, music, drama) to miss study hour. A student failing a course (under 50%) can expect two required study hours under the same conditions.

During this time students are expected to be in their own rooms unless permission is given by the on duty RA. They may work on the computers if necessary but any student caught abusing this will not be able to use them in the future. Throughout the year extra curricular activities and events may occur during this time. If so students are permitted to attend these events with the permission of the RA on duty if they are caught up on all homework. However students must either be at the event or in the dormitory. Students in the dormitory will be expected to be completing homework or studying. This time is merely a complement to additional time that the student should be spending during unsupervised time completing homework and studying.

## **Curfew**

**Sunday – Thursday            10pm**  
**Friday – Saturday\*        11pm**

Students' swipe cards, used to access the residence building, will not work after these times until 6am the next morning. Students must plan to be in before the above listed times or have previously received permission for late entry. Late entry is rarely given during the week and given based on merit on the weekends.

\*Grade 12 Dorm student's curfew on Friday and Saturday is midnight.

## **Personal Devotions**

### **Monday – Thursday**

**10:30pm - 11:00pm**

This is an opportunity for students to read their Bible and pray. We believe that God has a plan for each and every student. Students are encouraged to develop an intimate relationship with God through Christ. One of the main steps in that process is becoming disciplined in taking time to spend time alone with God on a consistent daily basis.

## **Quiet Hours**

**Sunday - Thursday**

**7:30pm – Lights Out**

**Saturday**

**10:30pm - Bedtime**

From these hours until lights out students are expected to keep music at a minimum, loud enough so only they can hear it. During this time movement may be restricted by the RA if it becomes distracting or too noisy. The purpose of this time is to begin winding down and preparing for study hour, devotions, and bedtime.

## **Lights Out/Late Lights**

**Sunday – Thursday\***

**11:00pm**

**Friday**

**2:00am**

**Saturday**

**1:00am**

By this time all students are expected to be in their own rooms with all overhead lights off. Permission for late lights for homework is possible but not to be expected. It is up to the RA or Dean's discretion.

\*Grade 12 Dorm student's Lights Out on Sunday-Thursday is midnight.

## **Room Checks/Cleanliness**

Random room checks will occur by the respective Dean. Rooms will be expected to have beds neatly made, floors clear, garbage emptied, desks cleaned, closets clean/organized and laundry stored neatly. Students who do not have their room cleaned appropriately on this day can expect to receive some additional work detail to be completed within the next 24 hours.

## **Sunday Church Attendance**

There are a number of good evangelical churches in the town of Three Hills, many within walking distance of the dormitory. Although this is a mandatory requirement, students will be given the choice of church that they would like to attend (a list of local churches is included on pages 2 and 3). By the end of September, each student must indicate their church of choice. Any changes after this time need to be cleared with the Dean. Students are encouraged to get involved in more than just the Sunday morning worship service in things like Youth Groups, Bible studies, worship teams, nursery care, etc. For those that do choose to be more involved with a local church, allowances will be given to accommodate them as long as it does not hinder their studies.

## **General Residence Expectations and Information**

### **Movies**

All movies, whether watched in a room or the TV lounge, must be approved by the Dean or an RA regardless of their rating. All movies will be screened through consultation with the following websites: [www.kids-in-mind.com](http://www.kids-in-mind.com), [pluggedinonline.com](http://pluggedinonline.com), [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org). This site contains a list of extensive movie reviews and even reviews popular music. If the RA or Dean is still weary of the content they may simply choose to not allow the movie to be watched. Failure to seek permission in the case of personal equipment in rooms (T.V., computer, etc.) may result in temporary confiscation of such equipment. Repeated offences or other factors may result in a student's personal T.V. or computer being sent home or stored until the end of the school year. Movies must be watched during the appropriate times.

### **T.V.s, Video Gaming Systems, Computers and Cell Phones**

There will be no televisions or gaming systems initially permitted in individual residence rooms. However, students who prove that they are mature enough to handle it may be given this privilege. Computers are permitted in individual rooms. Students caught using their computers or other devices for gaming or watching movies during inappropriate times, or for wireless internet use without Dean approval will have their electronics removed for an indefinite time. The same applies for cell phone use.

### **Sickness/Doctors and Hospital Appointments**

On school days, students feeling ill and wanting time off school must contact the Dean before 8:30 in the morning to receive permission to miss class. Students who miss any part of the school day due to illness may expect to be “dormed” (confined to the dormitory) for the evening and prohibited from taking part in any extra-curricular activities. This decision will be made by the Dean.

Should a student become sick during the day they are required to contact the school secretaries. If the secretaries are not available they are to contact either of the Deans. In order to be excused from class students must have a note from the Dean.

Students wishing to see a local doctor or go to the hospital may do so with the permission and arrangement by the Dean.

### **Leaving Campus/Vehicle passengers**

Students are required to receive Dean permission when leaving campus in ANY vehicle. Students are required to receive permission of the RA on duty when going to a local residence; mixed groups (boys & girls) must have adult supervision.

Students traveling outside of Three Hills or the immediate vicinity are allowed to do so with Dean **and** parental consent. However they must return by 10:00pm during the week or 11:00pm on weekends (Midnight

for grade 12 students). Trips out of town during the week are a rarity and will only be permitted under special circumstances.

### **Vehicle Use**

Vehicles must be registered with the Dean upon arrival. Students will be required to park their vehicle in the designated lot. Students are responsible to ensure that their vehicles are insured and fully licensed meeting the requirements of the Province of Alberta. All students will be required to turn their keys into the Dean or RA. Any student caught driving erratically or misusing their vehicle may have their keys taken away or be required to take their vehicle home. Students on Conduct Probation may lose use of their vehicle for the duration of their probation. A student's vehicle key will be given out for individual requests approved by the Dean and the student must return the key after that 'driving event' is complete. Drivers are responsible to ensure Dean permission has been granted for each PCA resident student in the vehicle. PCA resident students with a vehicle who fail to do this or drive without permission may lose their driving privileges.

### **Weekend Leaves**

Whenever students leave for the weekend they are required to make arrangements with the Dean and their parents by Wednesday of that week. When students are traveling with anyone other than their parents, parents will be contacted by the Dean to ensure that they are comfortable with this arrangement.

Any student wanting to go to another home for the weekend other than their parents, must have Dean and parental consent. Should there be a delay or change in plans while the student is away they will be required to contact the Dean immediately.

### **In Town Overnight Stays**

Students who wish to stay overnight at a friend's house in town may only do so with the Dean's permission and must have adult supervision.

Students will not be permitted to stay in homes of students of the opposite sex.

### **Residence Overnight Stays**

Students wishing to have friends stay overnight must receive permission from the Dean or RA on duty. They are welcome to stay but may be required to pay a fee \$10.00 per night should their stay exceed three nights. They also will be required to purchase any meals eaten in the cafeteria. Visitors are required to abide by dorm procedures and rules. Should a visitor become a problem they will be required to leave immediately.

### **Visitors in Residence**

Non-parent visitors in the residence of the opposite sex are required to check in with the Dean or RA immediately upon arrival. These visitors will be restricted to the public areas of the dorm (lounge or office). All visitors are required to respect dorm rules and schedules.

### **Vacations/School Year End**

Christmas and Spring vacations run in accordance with the school calendar. Students are required to be in school until the vacations officially begin. Students who would like to leave early or return late must have permission from the Dean and school. Parents are asked to consult the Dean before booking flights or other transportation to ensure that there are no complications with the school or dorm transportation schedule. All students are required to be off campus on the specified dates for Christmas and spring break vacations. If students are from overseas they are required to make arrangements with the Dean to find a suitable home-stay for those breaks and will not be permitted access to the residence. The fee for the home-stay during these times is \$25.00 per day.

Students are required to be out of the residence by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Students wishing to leave after their last exam and prior to graduation must make arrangements with the Dean. Students wishing to leave prior to their

scheduled exams must receive permission from the PCA academic office.

### **Practical Jokes**

Jokes are not funny when they disturb other people, destroy/damage property, and cause physical injury, hard feelings, humiliation or other emotional damage. No hazing or initiation rituals of any kind will be tolerated. Students who take part in these activities risk immediate expulsion from the PCA Residence program.

### **Open Dorm**

Open dorm is an opportunity for the guys or girls dorm to invite students of the opposite sex into their dorm for a brief period of time. During these times students are expected to have room doors left open. This is a Dean supervised time that will happen several times throughout each semester.

### **Room Security**

Keys are issued at the beginning of the year; any student who loses their key will be required to pay a \$25.00 charge for another key. Any student who loses or destroys their key card will be required to pay a \$5.00 fee for its replacement.

Please keep valuables and money to a minimum. Prairie Christian Academy does not assume any responsibility for the loss, damage, or theft of any person's property.

Prairie Christian Academy Dormitory Staff reserve the right to search any dormitory room.

### **Trespassing**

As tenants of Prairie Bible Institute we are required to be good stewards of the space that they provide us with. Students may not enter any building that is not intended for public use unless they are given permission by Prairie Personnel and the Dean. Entering the college

floors of the residence must be by invitation of PBC residence students or staff. Any student caught trespassing in any building or climbing on any roof will receive an automatic fine of \$25.00 and will be responsible for all damages. Repeat offences may warrant suspension or expulsion from the dormitory.

### **Fire Safety**

Do not lock your doors while you are in your room. Halls and stairways must be completely clear at all times. No hanging items from light bulbs and absolutely no candles allowed.

### **Fire Emergency**

When a fire is discovered:

- 1) Pull down the alarm.
- 2) Shout Fire.
- 3) Call 911.

### **Fire Evacuation**

Someone yelling “fire”, a siren, horn, or bell may signal an evacuation. In this event students are to close their window and door and proceed immediately to a designated area for roll call.

### **Fire Extinguisher**

There are fire extinguishers at the end of each hall. Instructions are stamped on each unit. Do not aim the fire extinguisher at anything that might be electrically alive as injury or death could result.

### **Banned Items**

Items such as bow and arrows, ammunition, firearms (any type), paintball guns, knives, hockey sticks, baseball bats, lacrosse sticks, and swords are not permitted in the residence. These items will be stored in the school or in most cases sent home.

### **Theft**

No theft of any kind, great or small will be tolerated. Any student caught stealing from another student, a local business, local home, or within the school will be suspended and possibly expelled from the PCA Residence.

### **Substance Abuse**

Prairie Christian Academy recognizes the danger to ones physical, psychological and spiritual well-being in the use of certain products. Therefore all dorm students are required to refrain from use of tobacco in any form, alcoholic beverages of all types, and non-medicinal drugs during the entire academic year, whether on or off campus. Students caught using these substances will be suspended and possibly expelled. Any student caught selling or dealing these substances will face immediate expulsion from the PCA Residence Program.

### **Pornography**

The pornography industry is a direct exploitation of all people involved. It has the potential to, and left unchecked it will, destroy the spiritual, emotional, and social well-being of all participants. Students who are caught viewing pornography will be assessed to see how deeply they are involved and either counseled by the Dean or required to seek counseling from a local pastor or Christian counselor. Materials that are not overtly pornographic but are deemed inappropriate by the Dean will not be permitted.

### **Foul Language**

Swearing, coarse joking, or inappropriate gestures are not accepted in the dormitory. These actions do not reflect the Christian values we are trying to uphold and create an atmosphere of hostility and disrespect. Students who do have troubles in this area are expected to show significant effort and improvement towards stopping completely or they may be suspended or asked to leave the dormitory.

## **Dating and Relationships**

Although students are not encouraged to seek this type of exclusive relationship, some do decide to date. In light of this, it is our desire that young men and women keep Christ at the forefront of every relationship. Undoubtedly within the context of “dating” this has the potential to become a little more difficult. Our goal is to teach these young men and women to understand members of the opposite sex in a way that promotes healthy interactions and a Godly view of one another.

Each student who embarks on this type of journey can expect to meet with the Dean. This relationship is intended to be one of accountability and mentoring where students will be challenged by the Dean to maintain boundaries that promote integrity and purity. Should this relationship become unhealthy and harmful to the students then they may be asked by the Dean to first rethink this attachment and eventually discontinue. However it is our intention that students learn to critically evaluate their actions and the actions of others thus empowering them to make mature decisions without needing to be forced.

## **Attitude**

No student is perfect, however each student is required to make the effort to follow procedures and rules to the best of their ability. It is inevitable that most, if not all, students will make a mistake in following dorm procedures and expectations at least once throughout the year. While we do not expect perfection, we do believe it is important for each student to accept responsibility for his or her actions and decisions. This can be demonstrated in their ability to successfully make restitution through punishments, added chores, or apologies. Although students are given an opportunity to defend themselves and tell their side of the story, they are expected to accept the final ruling or decision made by the Dean or RA without being argumentative, defiant or disrespectful.

Students are also expected to refrain from gossip, backbiting, and slander. This sort of talk only tears down and undermines the dorm community. Students are given ample opportunity to voice their

concerns and feelings, using the right avenues (talk to: a Dean, the Principal, or RA). Students who constantly complain, gripe, or gossip can expect to meet with both Deans and will be dealt with appropriately.

### **Communication with Home**

Parents play an integral role in the dorm community, therefore it would be impossible to be effective in maximizing the effect of the socialization that students receive here without your involvement. There is no better way to communicate positive decision making and empower a student who may be choosing a difficult path, than to have the same message being sent from all sides. Parents, Deans, teachers, and staff need to be on the same page. In the absence of proper communication, this is impossible. On our part we will make a commitment to communicating with home whenever there is a major issue and attempt to stay connected with parents via newsletters and mass email. However, it would be impossible to communicate information about individual students within these contexts. Therefore, we would ask that each parent make one phone call a month to check on his or her child's progress. The Deans are accessible through their cell phones at all times. We would love nothing more than to talk about your child and the exciting things that are happening within the residence. We value and thrive on your input. Parents are welcome to call or email anytime they have a concern. If possible it would be helpful that each parent have email or access to email, even if that means creating a Hotmail or Yahoo account and using your Public Library. General communications with home will occur via email.

Sheila Adkins, Women's Residence Director

Cell – (403)443-0512

Email – pcashedean@yahoo.ca

Floyd Cotton, Men's Residence Director

Cell – (403)443-0511

Email – pchahedean@yahoo.ca

## **PCA Residence Disciplinary Procedures**

Having read the previous handbook, students and parents should be informed enough to understand the mandate and direction of the Prairie Christian Academy Dormitory Program. While we will be gracious with students it is important that they understand that decisions have consequences, good and bad, depending on the nature of the choice. Students are expected to bear responsibility for their choices. In most cases, simply following through and completing the terms of the punishment and approaching discipline with the right attitude will empower the student to make appropriate restitution.

The purpose of all discipline is to restore the student to right standing within the dormitory. It is also aimed at ensuring that the dormitory remains a place where students have a sense of safety and belonging. Our goal is not to be a heavy weight on students who simply make a mistake(s).

### **Routine Discipline**

This type of discipline is for the smaller issues such as: late for study hour, devotions, curfew or school. This type of discipline will typically be handled by the appropriate dean and in some cases a residence assistant. Though there is a standardized approach to routine discipline (contact your Dean for specifics), the nature of this punishment is influenced by the specifics of the offence, student attitude and previous incidents. The Dean will assess this and deal with each situation on an individual basis.

**Slightly More than Routine**

Examples of behavior that could fall under this are: defiance towards an RA, Dean, or another authority figure. As well, behaviors that would typically be classified under “routine discipline” can become borderline problematic when the same or similar problem behaviors continue to crop up. For example, a student who is late three nights within a one to two week period would demand a more severe action be taken. At this point the student will be dealt with, and parents contacted to ensure that everyone understands the process. At this stage both Deans will be involved and the Principal informed, so as to ensure that expectations are communicated clearly with all parties involved. This also serves to send a message that the behavior is unacceptable and there is a need for change. Punishment at this stage could be room confinement for a day with no visitors allowed. The understanding at this point is that the next step could involve suspension from the dorm. We are looking for a noticeable effort towards changing this behavior.

**Problematic**

When behavior reaches this level both Deans will be involved and parents and the Principal informed. Examples of behaviors that would fall under this could be: sneaking out, damage to the dorm or another person’s property, theft, or repeated defiance. This could involve a possible one to three day suspension from the dorm, plus a temporary reduction or loss of privileges as determined by the Deans. Transportation for students within a reasonable distance of Three Hills is to be provided by their parents. For international students or those from farther distances outside of Alberta, arrangements will be made for them to stay at a local home for a cost of \$25.00 per night.

At this time students may be put on Conduct Probation. Conduct Probation will last anywhere from four to eight weeks after the suspension is served or may even take the place of a suspension. Every two weeks the Deans will assess the progress that the student is making and decide if any other steps need to be made. Students on Conduct Probation may not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular

activities or sports teams, depending on the circumstances. This decision will be made at the discretion of both Deans. At this point a formal letter will also be sent home to parents that would detail the infraction, steps taken, and potential future steps, should the same problem(s) continue to exist.

### **Extremely Problematic**

Behavior that may fit into this category could be: breach of conduct probation, first time drinking or drug use offence, smoking, repeated moderate sexual activity or first offence sexual intercourse. At this stage the Principal and both Deans will be involved. The minimum punishment is a three-day suspension plus a temporary reduction or loss of privileges as determined by the Deans. Parents will be expected to assume all transportation responsibilities for students within driving distance. Parents of students that are too far to have students return home will be required to pay a \$25.00 a day fee for students to stay in a local home. Depending on the track record of the student within the dormitory, he or she may be removed from the residence program. All students who enter this stage of discipline will be placed on Conduct Probation.

In the event of removal a student must leave the residence immediately. It is the parent's responsibility to arrange transportation home or to another destination. This is intended to protect the individual student and others from further complications.

Students who are permitted to re-enter the residence after a first offence with these issues will be removed from the residence program if they are caught a second time. Any student caught dealing drugs or alcohol to anyone will be removed from the residence program on the first offence.

At any point in time, should it become necessary we will not hesitate to contact the RCMP or Alberta Social Services to ensure that each student or involved party is protected and their individual rights upheld.

### **Appeal Policy**

Removal from the residence program does not necessarily mean that the student will be expelled from the school. Removal from school is a decision to be made by the Principal following the procedures and protocol established by Golden Hills School Division. Parents who wish to have a decision of a removal from the residence program reviewed must initiate the process immediately. Parents of a student who is removed from the residence program must apply for a PCA approved home-stay arrangement (application does not guarantee approval) or the student must live with a parent in order to remain enrolled at Prairie Christian Academy.

### **Behavior Contract**

The purpose of the signing this contract does not mean that perfection is expected, rather that each student has carefully read the handbook and will attempt with God's help to follow it to the best of their ability. On the part of the parent it is to ensure that they too have read and understood it and will agree to support the residence program, as we attempt to enforce and uphold this contract to the best of our ability with God's help. If there is any aspect of this handbook that you have questions or concerns with please contact one of the Deans.

**The contract is located on page 29.**



## Residence Behaviour Contract

**This contract must be submitted to the appropriate Dean and signed by parents before students are permitted into the residence.**

### Student Contract

I \_\_\_\_\_ understand the Handbook and the expectation that I must live up to these standards. Should I fall short of the expectations, I can expect to receive consequences and will do my best to make amends for my behavior. I understand that I am in control of the choices that I make and can therefore be expected to, and will attempt to, accept full responsibility for my actions and their outcomes. Although I will not be forced to accept Christ I will give my best effort to respect and take part in all of the required spiritual components within the dormitory (nightly devotions, large group, and small group devotions).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date

### Parent Contract

As a parent(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ we understand the Handbook and will do our best to support and uphold the decisions of the Deans throughout the year. Should I have any concerns with any aspect of the dormitory I will commit to contacting the Dean. I understand that I am an active part of my child's life and therefore must be involved in their life while they are away from home. To the best of my ability I will support the Dean in all decisions and will commit to one phone call a month and more if I feel it is necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s) Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date

**Dean's Contract**

As the Dean of \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I am obligated to uphold and enforce the components of this Handbook. If any amendments are to be made to the Handbook during the year I will commit to contacting the parents and communicating with the students why these changes will be made. I acknowledge that I have a unique role in your child's life and will do my best, with God's help, to serve and care for your child by maintaining an environment where they feel safe, are able to express their concerns, be themselves, and are encouraged to have a relationship with God. I understand my responsibility to discipline fairly with grace and understanding towards restoring your child to right standing. In this regard I will do my best to communicate clearly the expectations that we have for your child with you and your child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date