

MEDIA RELEASE

CRPS to Enhance Educational Experiences for Elizabeth Rummel and Lawrence Grassi Students February 21, 2024

To better serve the educational needs of its learning communities, Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) will reconfigure the grade levels at Elizabeth Rummel School (ERS) and Lawrence Grassi Middle School (LGMS). Starting the 2024/25 school year, ERS will welcome students from Kindergarten through Grade 4 (K-4), while LGMS will educate students in Grades 5 through 8 (Gr. 5-8).

This reconfiguration comes after thoughtful consideration of the developmental needs of students and the efficient use of newly renovated facilities. Historically, Grade 4 students transitioned to LGMS due to a pressing need for renovations of ERS' portables. With the portables fully refurbished, CRPS sees an opportunity to realign its grade configuration to better serve its educational community.

Superintendent of Schools Christopher MacPhee expressed his enthusiasm for the change, stating "This decision is a testament to our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible educational environment for our students. By extending the early learning environment at ERS, we are not only supporting the developmental needs of our youngest students but also enhancing leadership opportunities and social-emotional development ahead of their transition to middle school."

Another critical aspect of this reconfiguration is the optimization of space. The upgrades at ERS have equipped the school to accommodate the K-4 configuration comfortably, thereby alleviating the space constraints experienced at LGMS. Additionally, this move eliminates the need for K-4 families to travel for after-school care, as these services are conveniently located at ERS.

Parent and staff information meetings were held the week of February 12, signaling the beginning of an inclusive dialogue designed to prepare the school community for this transition. Reflecting on the discussions thus far, Superintendent MacPhee said the dialogue with parents, teachers, and staff has been invaluable and that their insights will play a crucial role in shaping the Division's approach to the transition. Specifically, MacPhee added that the Division plans to increase opportunities for students and parents to visit LGMS ahead of time, allowing them to become familiar with the new environment, meet future teachers, and see firsthand the exciting learning opportunities awaiting them.

"We are committed to ensuring that this change is as smooth and supportive as possible for everyone involved," said MacPhee. "This is an exciting time for CRPS, and we are committed to working closely with our community to bring about positive change for our students' future."