

Points to Remember

- We provide individual programs for all students but special needs children have individual programs prepared for them by our resource/ classroom teacher.
- Alberta schools write yearly achievement tests in grades 3, 6 & 9 and grade 12 students write semester diplomas in January and June. Our results are among the highest in the province.
- Typically, Alberta schools rank among the highest in all jurisdictions in the world in Math.

Sports Programs

- We have a cross country program which has been very successful. We had the best Junior teams statistics two years in a row.
- We have a basketball program as student numbers and interest warrant.
- We also offer a badminton program.
- We run a full intramural program as well to develop skills from the Primary Level onwards.



U.K. Parent Assistance

- Kindergarten SCE exchange teacher is here to help all U.K. parents.
- The BATUS Education Officer, Miss Knee at 544-4020 or Welfare officer Mr. Wood at 544-2572 can also be of assistance.
- All of the above can help with specific issues for U.K. families like moving etc.



Box 59

Ralston, Alberta

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1-(403) 544-3535

RALSTON SCHOOL



**ALBERTA/
CANADIAN
SCHOOLS**

Ralston School caters for children aged 4 to 15 years of age. It currently has approximately 170 pupils of which 70% are British. The school is well resourced. In addition to the spacious classrooms it has a computer lab, well stocked library, purpose built gym and large playground with new equipment.

Similarities and Differences

There are some minor differences between the British and Canadian educational systems but with the Primary aged children the differences are not great.

The school is a Canadian school teaching a Canadian curriculum but the main learning objectives in Maths, English, History etc are the same but perhaps taught differently.

One difference—in Canadian school the Canadian national anthem is sung every morning. At our assemblies we sing the national anthem along with God Save the Queen. Canadian children have provincial exams in grades 3,6 and 9.

A major difference is in the ages children start school. British children start school younger than Canadian children.

British children starting at Ralston school are placed in a grade which is suited to their academic needs and maturity. Ralston School believes in maximizing its unique blend of pupils and promoting the best opportunities it can for all children. It enjoys the challenge of combining two cultural philosophies and ensuing curricula.

YOU WILL SEE

-Maths, Science, English, Modern Foreign Languages as Available, Social Studies (History, Geography, Social Sciences)

-Fine Arts such as Drama and Art.

-Technology Instruction both infused and separate.

YOU WON'T ALWAYS SEE

-Music Classes (Dependant on Staffing)

-Modern Foreign Languages (Dependant on Staffing)

-Separate Debate Clubs since they are in the Social Studies and Language Arts Curriculum.

Learning About Our Schools

-Our Division web site is <http://prrd.net> which has most pertinent information about the school and school division. Our school web site can also be accessed from here.

-Alberta Learning has complete descriptions of school curriculum and other useful information for parents at <http://education.gov.ab.ca>

Grade Levels/Years

- Years in U.K. Schools and Grade levels in Alberta schools are not the same.
- U.K. students start in Government schools when our students start in Pre-Schools, both Government and Private, in Alberta at age 4.
- For example, U.K. students will not generally go from Year 1 to Grade 2 since they will be much younger than average Canadian students in that grade. Usually, a considerable gap in math abilities also exists due to curriculum differences because of the age difference.
- Student placement by grade in Canada does not affect which year U.K. students will return to in the U.K. Students will be placed by age when they return to the U.K.



GRADE LEVEL ACHIEVEMENT

NEW THIS YEAR IN ALBERTA

- Means that students can be in Grade 2 and working on Grade 3 or 4 Math's or English.
- Means that teachers must report the grade level students are really working at in Math's and English at year's end.
- Means that which grade your child is in does not matter since they will be challenged at their own level.



High School Students

- If you have a child of high school age, Eagle Butte High School is our nearest High School.
- It offers typical high school programming and has two full time student counselors to assist students and parents in setting up programs.
- The Eagle Butte web site can also be accessed through the PRSD website and their telephone number is 1-403-528-1996.