



École Secondaire Robert A. McMath Secondary School

4251 Garry Street, Richmond, British Columbia, V7E 2T9 - T: (604) 718-4050 - F: (604) 718-4051

Email: mcmath@sd38.bc.ca Website: mcmath.sd38.bc.ca

September 9, 2020

Dear McMath Students and Parents:

Staff have spent the last couple of very full days getting ready for your safe return. We're excited to begin this school year and know how important our time together is. We appreciate the positive emails and phone calls along with the questions and wonderings as we navigate this unusual time. I apologize for the length of the detailed information below; I wanted you to clearly understand the procedures we have in place for safety of our students.

On Thursday, our oldest students (Grades 10, 11 and 12) will return to McMath for their Welcome, Safety Orientation, and Timetable Information. On Friday, our youngest students (Grades 8 and 9) will return for the same information. Please see the attached schedule and map which indicates the times and individual locations for students. You'll notice our Grade 8s and 9s are separated into French and English groups. All groups this week will have no more than 15 students per class so that students can distance from one another. The vast majority of our students make their way to McMath on their own – walking or biking. If you live a long distance away, you might take the bus or perhaps get a ride, but we hope to have a very limited number of cars.

Prior to students attending, we ask that you attend to the Health Declaration questions so that we maintain good health for all of our community. Students enter the building through the exterior doors in each wing, depending on the location of the orientation group. If a student is scheduled for B127, the student would enter the school by the B wing door on the west side of the school. For A wing classrooms (our central hub – Theatre, Leadership, Band), the student would enter the school through the Breezeway entrance (between the gyms and our main building). And finally, a student would access C107 through the C wing door on the northwest side of the school. Hand sanitizer will be at each entrance and in every classroom; we encourage students to wash their hands just before they arrive.

Students should arrive just a few minutes ahead of their scheduled time, and please wear a mask, if possible. We will have staff outside to help direct and distance students, as well as distribute disposable masks, if any student needs one. There will be staff inside to help students find their classrooms and maintain distance in the hallways. Once in the classroom, students will receive their two reusable masks in a sealed bag and then begin the orientation session. It is very important that all students attend for the safety orientation. If you cannot make it, your return to classes next week will be delayed until you complete the safety orientation with Ms Goulas, our vice principal. Please email her directly in this rare instance.

Please note that our timetable is tighter than ever before as we carefully manage cohorts (Grades 8 and 9) and reduce class size (Grades 10, 11 and 12). Students may not have all the classes they selected. Our amazing counsellors alongside Mr. Ngo, our other vice principal, have worked so hard over the last week *and* weekend to give students their choices, maintain cohort and size requirements, and balance programs. There will be a very limited time for course corrections to occur (if we have scheduled a student in a class that was successfully completed in the summer, for instance). Changing a course to a different elective will be very difficult, but will be considered, particularly for our Grade 12 students who need to meet post secondary requirements. Course correction requests should be submitted to your counsellor by 9 am Monday morning, sooner is better. Whew.

Beginning September 14th, students will be attending their Quarter 1 classes as indicated below. Please note that our building will open about 10 minutes before class in the morning; students should arrive on time for their first class and use the wing entrance where the class is located. For our senior students who only have an afternoon class some days, please arrive on time, but not early. All of our students' safety is important to us and we are working hard to minimize numbers and maintain safe distancing.

Home of the Wildcats





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Week of September 14th, Daily schedule for Grade 8 and 9 classes:

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:30 - 11:40 am	A	A	A	A	A
11:40 - 12:30 pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30 - 2:50 pm	B	B	B	B	B

Week of September 14th, Daily schedule for Grade 10, 11, and 12 classes:

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:15 - 11:40 am	A1	A2	A1	A2	A1
11:40 - 12:35 pm	Not in school				
12:35 - 3:00 pm	B2	B1	B2	B1	B2

Later this week I will send a September calendar with important dates and information to help us with good communication.

As we begin the 2020-2021 school year, with typical happiness to see friends and begin new adventures, we know it'll be a bit different. We will continue to adjust and communicate, always adhering to safety procedures and always remembering why we, as educators, love working with you, our students. We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we implement the best plans for a safe and welcoming return to school. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jane McFadyen
Principal

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