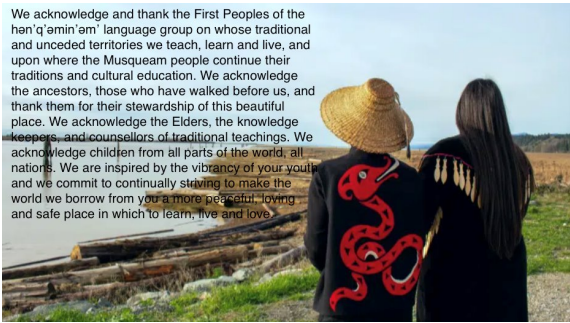




FAMILY WAAG  
SEPTEMBER 2 – 6, 2024

Monday Sept. 2	Tuesday Sept. 3	Wednesday Sept. 4	Thursday Sept. 5	Friday Sept. 6
Labour Day School Closed	Welcome Back! Grade Assemblies 9:30am Grade 8 10:15am Grade 9 10:45am Grade 10 11:15am Grade 11 1:15pm Grade 12	HR-ABCD  Semester 1 Begins 8:30am Homeroom	HR-ABCD  8:30am Homeroom	HR-ABCD  8:30am Homeroom  3:00pm Course Change Requests Due



WELCOME BACK!

We are excited for the start of another school year! On behalf of the McMath staff, I hope you all have had a terrific summer with family and friends. Whether you traveled far or near, we hope everyone was safe and enjoyed their journey.

Staff are excited to welcome ALL students on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. A special welcome to the Grade 12’s, the **Grad Class of 2025**. This is an exciting year for our Grads, and we all will be supporting them during this transition and in celebrating their graduation and the world of opportunity that awaits them.

We are also very excited to welcome our new Wildcats, the **Grad Class of 2029!** We will continue to support the Grade 8’s transition. From **10am-12:30pm on Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**, our counselling team will be leading our **Grade 8 Orientation**. We will welcome attending Grade 8’s, assist students in signing up for their locker, locate their classes, and tour the school to prepare for the first week. Please note – this is an optional and an informal event.

A big Thank You to our Leadership and Student Council students for volunteering their time for this event.

Welcome New Staff

McMath is excited to have many new educators to our McMath Team. Please welcome our **new Wildcat staff members**.

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| • Ms. Babecoff-Kimhi | Counselling                            |
| • Mr. Lui            | Humanities & Athletic Director         |
| • Mr. Yuen           | Science & Chemistry                    |
| • Ms. Jagdeo         | English Language Arts                  |
| • Ms. Valliquette    | Learning Services                      |
| • Ms. Riddell        | Drama, Humanities, & Learning Services |
| • Ms. Wiley          | Business Assistant                     |
| • Ms. Lefebvre       | Educational Assistant                  |
| • Ms. Owens          | Educational Assistant                  |
| • Ms. Wang           | Educational Assistant                  |

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please make sure that the parent/guardian and student information on file is accurate. If you need to make changes or additions, please complete the form at: <https://forms.gle/SwF276BH5v6gwuA28>. This will ensure that all students and families are up to date with communications.

We kindly ask **ALL Grade 8 students to complete the form**. Grade 8 students, your e-mail is needed to create your MyEd account.

NOTICE OF LATE RETURN

The Notice of Late Return form must be completed for any student who will NOT be returning to school by noon on Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Please note – students must return by September 11, 2024. The form is available on the McMath website at: <https://mcmath.sd38.bc.ca/files/mcmath/2024-06/Notice%20of%20Late%20Return%202024-25.pdf>.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Attendance is crucial, as our students’ success is important to us. If your child is absent or late, parents are asked to e-mail the office or phone us. Our **early warning number for excused absences or lates is 604-718-4004** or we can be reached via e-mail at [mcmath@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:mcmath@sd38.bc.ca).

**Please make sure to indicate if your child will be absent for the whole day, arrive late, or need to leave early.** Include your teen’s name, grade, student number and the reason they will be away from school. Our phone line and email are available 24-hours a day. Kindly advise the school prior to 9:00am.

If a student needs to be dismissed before the end of the school day (leave early for an appointment or illness), and we have not received prior notice from a parent/guardian, the school office must contact a parent/guardian before early dismissal is approved and the student is allowed to leave. Students returning to school from early dismissals must sign back in at the office before returning to class.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – September 3

On Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, students will ease back to school with their grade assembly followed by homeroom. This will take about an hour for Grade 9 - 12 students. Grade 8s will be given a bit more time to find their classes and sign up for their lockers - with the help of Leadership students. Students are asked to go directly to the Large (North) Gym where we will begin with a welcome assembly. We will share the details of the week, remind students of expectations and procedures, and talk about upcoming activities. Then students will go on to their Homerooms to receive their schedules, important forms to be completed, and other start up business.

Homeroom class lists will be posted on the front doors of the school by 4pm August 30, 2024.

COURSE CORRECTION PROCESS

Student Schedules will be emailed out to parents/students by August 29<sup>th</sup>. As in past years, students have had the opportunity to confirm their course choices in late spring. Only a few students are not able to get a course or two due to their choices. We are very full and have had many new students join us over the summer. Changing courses in the fall can be challenging to complete. Most classes are full and have wait lists.

If there are any changes to be made – please follow the procedures outlined in the Course Correction Requests e-mail, which will be sent out shortly.

Course correction requests are only considered if there is an error in a student’s schedule, and if the request meets one or more of the stated criteria. Please also note that course correction requests will only be considered if they are submitted using the online form. Requests submitted directly to the school or office staff emails will not be considered. September is a busy time, and counsellors may be unable to see students immediately – please be patient.

A printed copy with teacher name and classroom numbers be given to students during Homeroom on Tuesday. Last day to submit a Course Change Request is September 6, 2024.

FEES AND SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

We are excited to welcome our new Business Assistant, Ms. Wiley, to McMath. Ms. McGarry has moved out of Richmond to be closer to her family. Ms. Wiley will be starting with us in early September, student fees may be delayed for a couple of weeks due to the change in office.

For families who need financial support, please email Mr. Johnstone at [johnstone@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:johnstone@sd38.bc.ca) and how we can help: fees waived, food, clothing. This information is private. We support many families every year.

REGULAR BELL SCHEDULE

Our bell schedule will be the same as last year including PLT on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please see the attached bell schedule for further details. Please note – there is no PLT during the first week of classes.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING TIME (PLT)

Students have the opportunity again this year to engage in weekly Personal Learning Time (PLT) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is dedicated time set aside in the timetable for students, where they are given choice and ownership over their learning. For example, students can visit teachers to get additional help, work on projects individually or in a group, or engage in personal activities such as goal setting. PLT is centered around three Guiding Principles:

1. PLT will be self-directed, self-managed and self-regulated by students
2. PLT will support learners to be independent learners
3. PLT will focus on the development of Core Competencies - Thinking and Personal and Social Responsibility

COLLABORATION TIME (CT)

Along with other Richmond schools, McMath will continue to have Collaboration Time. To provide continued uninterrupted time for school staff to collaborate on effective practice, McMath will have 10 Collaboration Days. On these days, classes begin at 9:30am.

For the 2024-2025 school year, CT Days are scheduled for:

September 25, 2024	February 26, 2025
October 30, 2024	March 12, 2025
November 27, 2024	April 30, 2025
December 18, 2024	May 28, 2025
January 29, 2025	June 18, 2025

During CT, students have the choice of studying offsite (e.g. at home) or independently studying at school in the rotunda.

CONNEXIONS CLASS AND CONFERENCE DAYS

Students will have 4 Connexions classes and 2 Conference Days that take place with their Homeroom class throughout the year. These classes will provide varied and engaging learning opportunities related to Career and Life Education, which is a required component of the high school curriculum.



COUNSELLOR ALPHA ASSIGNMENTS

Students are primarily assigned to a counsellor based on their last name; however, students may see whichever counsellor they feel most comfortable working with. Please note that this year’s alpha distribution for students has shifted slightly:

- **Ms. Bagnall:** Students with surnames A – F
- **Ms. Babecoff-Kimhi:** Students with surnames G – L
- **Ms. Arvanitis:** Students with surnames M – Sp
- **Mr. Arena:** Students with surnames St – Z

CAREER ADVISOR

Senior students are encouraged to visit Ms. Carter, our Career Advisor, in the Counselling Centre. Ms. Carter is able to help students navigate...

- Career opportunities
- post-secondary education
- financial/scholarship information
- skilled trades
- youth train in trades and youth work in trades programs

STUDENT AGENDA

All students in Grades 8 and 9 will receive an agenda book in their homerooms on the first day of school. All students and parents have access to our digital agenda using the MySchoolDay app. Please see the attached instructions on how to use the program.

The student handbook available in the first set of pages in the agenda book and through the MySchoolDay app describe all of the important McMath Secondary School expectations, our Code of Conduct, as well as helpful information with regards to services available, student recognition and evaluation. We recommend students familiarizing themselves with this information.

STUDENT LOCKERS – optional for students

Student may choose a locker to use for the year through our online booking system. The school provides each student with a locker and combination lock. Lockers must be locked to ensure belongings are secure. Students are advised not to share their lock combination with anyone. Although every precaution is taken, sometimes lockers can be broken into. **We ask students not to bring valuables to school.** The lockers and locks are school property and therefore, we reserve the right to check them if deemed necessary. Please go to our website for the link and sign-up instructions for lockers. Please note that students do not have to sign-up for a locker, this is completely optional.

Gym Lockers

When taking Physical Health Education (PHE) class, students will be able to use a locker in the change room to store clothing and books for the period that they have **PHE only** (this should not be used as a personal locker, locks will be removed and cut off). For this, students must have an additional lock to carry with them for use during their PHE class block. The school does have locks for sale that can be purchased from Ms. Wiley, our Business Assistant. We remind all students that all valuables such as wallets and cellphones should **NOT** be stored in PHE lockers or left unsecured in the change rooms.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Artona will be onsite at McMath to take **student photos** on **Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**. Retake day for those who missed the first photo day will be on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. It is important for students to take their school photograph as this photograph is used for school ID’s and in the yearbook. Families will have an opportunity to purchase photo packages, if desired.

**Formal graduation portraits** will be taking place in the Artona mobile studio at McMath from **February 12 – 21, 2025**. Portraits will be taken by appointment only. Every grad’s photo will be used on the 2025 grad composite and Grade 12s will receive a miniature copy of the grad composite in June. Families have the option of ordering custom photos. Grads can book a time and find out more information at <https://artona.com>.

MyEdBC AND PARENT PORTAL

**\*\*Please note that MyEd BC is currently unavailable until September 2, 2024. \*\***

At McMath Secondary, we will continue to have parents access their child’s school information directly online. The MyEducation BC (MyEdBC) Parent Portal allows parents/guardians to access attendance, term grades, and other information on their child(ren).

Account Problems?

Accounts have been created using email addresses previously provided to the office. If you did not provide your email address or need to update your address, please send an email to [mcmath@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:mcmath@sd38.bc.ca) or complete the form at: <https://forms.gle/SwF276BH5v6qwuA28>. If sending an email, in the subject line of your email, please put Parent Portal, and in the message include the following: student’s full name, student number, parent/guardian name, and e-mail address.

HUNGRY?

Cafeteria service at McMath is available until 2:00pm Monday-Friday. Service is not available to students during class time. In the mornings, the cafeteria offers breakfast sandwiches, bagels, and other breakfast items. At lunch, there are daily lunch specials, soup, sandwiches, wraps, as well as other short order items. Students can check for specific items and costs on the menu board posted outside the cafeteria.

NEW DISTRICT POLICY: Student Personal Digital Device

The School District has sent an email to parents and caregivers. We are sharing this as well, as this is a substantial change for students and parents. Please find detailed information about the Student Personal Digital Device Guidelines on our school website: <https://mcmath.sd38.bc.ca>

The Ministry of Education requires ALL districts and schools to have a policy for digital devices. The purpose for this is to make youth safe, improve student mental health, and eliminate constant interruptions from their learning.

The policy states that students can use their digital device IF, the teacher asks the students to use their device for a learning activity. Students who do not have device, will be offered a school device for the class.

Otherwise, **ALL students must keep their device powered off and be in their backpack or their locker.** If students do not follow the policy, staff will remind the student, and if they continue to use their device, staff will connect with parents, and possibly the student will not be allowed to have device at school. Furthermore, devices should not be used in changerooms and bathrooms.

Students will be able to use their devices at break and at lunch.

PAC TRAFFIC COMMITTEE UPDATE

In June, the PAC Traffic Committee met with District Facility staff to make some changes with the traffic lines in the driveways and the pickup area. The new painting will allow the flow to be safer for students and will ease some of the congestion.

Pick-Up and Drop-Off of Students

We encourage all students to walk, cycle, or take public transportation to school as often as possible. Not only is this healthy and an environmentally friendly alternative, it also greatly reduces the traffic congestion around the school each morning and afternoon.

If you are driving to drop-off or pick-up students, please drive slowly and carefully on all areas of the school property. Please observe all traffic signs along our driveways. The signs are there for the safety of our students, staff, and families. In the past two years, injuries have resulted due to many drivers ignoring the posted signs. Please do not pick up and drop off in the west parking lot which is only for staff or use the neighbouring townhouse complex area. If a student must be driven, we then ask that they be picked up or dropped off on Garry Street in proper areas.

SUMMER VANDALISM & BIKE RACKS

Custodians and district staff were busy during the summer. There were many small fires, graffiti, and the bike racks between the two buildings were flipped over a number of times. Unfortunately, the cement pavers were broken, and the bikes racks have been removed. Facilities will re-install the bike racks soon, hopefully, before the first day of school.

SECURITY CAMERAS

Over the past two years, we have discussed at our PAC meetings and have been working with the district to install cameras in the school and outside of the facility to deter individuals who are vandalizing the building. Administrators will only view footage if there is an incident. We continue to encourage our students to follow our McMath PRIDE expectations.

STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED

Stay connected with what is happening at the school through our school website ([mcmath.sd38.bc.ca](http://mcmath.sd38.bc.ca)) and social media sites (Instagram and Twitter/X). Each week a Family Week at A Glance is posted on our school website which highlights upcoming events and important information. Families can also download a PDF copy of our school calendar, which is available on our website under the “School Calendar” tab.

Parent involvement and support at school makes a significant positive difference to student success. We hope that parents will become part of the school’s many events and activities. All parents are members of the McMath Parent Advisory Council (PAC). The first PAC meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at McMath.

PAC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month.  
**For the 2024-2025 school year, PAC meetings are scheduled for:**

September 17, 2024	January 21, 2025
October 15, 2024	February 18, 2025
November 19, 2024	April 15, 2025
December 17, 2024	May 20, 2025

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 3:	First Day of the New School Year
Sept. 4:	Semester 1 Classes Begin
Sept. 6:	Last day to submit Course Change Request
Sept. 13:	Terry Fox Run (Alternate Bell Schedule)
Sept. 16:	Photo Day
Sept. 17:	PAC Meeting (7pm)
Sept. 18:	Langara College Presentation (lunch)
Sept. 19:	Grad Kick-Off (3:15pm)
	Gr. 12 Parent Night (5:30pm)
	Meet the Teacher (6:30pm)
Sept. 20:	Pro-D Day (school closed)
Sept. 25:	Collaboration Day (school starts at 9:30am)