

August 2022

Dear parents/guardians,

I trust that this summer has been a time of rest and rejuvenation after another year of ups and downs. The start of our 2022/23 school year looks to be a lot closer to what we are accustomed to, but, as always, we move forward knowing that ultimately our Heavenly Father leads and guides us.

To the new families bringing children to Maple Ridge Christian School this September, we welcome you. We hope that you quickly get to know your new school community. There will be lots of opportunities for you to connect - volunteering in the classroom, driving for field trips, or visiting any Friday morning for chapel.

Whether your eldest child is starting kindergarten or your youngest child is beginning grade 12, our innovative and mission-minded staff are dedicated to educating your child with a Christian based education. At Maple Ridge Christian School, we seek to equip, train and inspire each student with an education that will transform their hearts and minds for God.

Our theme for 2022-23 is learning to be **community-servers**. Anyone in need is our neighbour, and a part of our community. Each year we choose service activities to participate in – both on the local level and the international level. We also serve within our classroom and school community. Our theme verse is found in 1 Peter 4:10, “Each one of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.”

As we prepare students to serve their communities, we know that it begins with a solid foundation, secured in God’s word. Our prayer is that in partnership with home, school, and church, we will raise leaders for tomorrow that are able to live out a life of divine purpose, standing for God’s truth, and serving others.

May God continue to bless you and your family during these final days of summer. See you in September.

Shalom,

Mr. Quentin Flokstra
Lead Principal
Maple Ridge Christian School

The following is some general information that may be of interest to you. There will be further updates later in August. If you have any questions, the office will reopen on Tuesday, August 30

DATES, TIMES AND SCHEDULES

- The first day of school after the summer holidays will be on Tuesday, September 6, 2022. This will be a full day beginning at **8:25 AM** and ending at **2:55 PM** for Elementary & Middle school and **3:00 PM** for High School. The bell will ring at 8:20, indicating all Elementary are expected to line up and High School students should go to their homeroom (signs will be posted on the first day showing the classroom for each grade). All classes will start at **8:25 AM**.
- Regularly scheduled full school days for Elementary school are as follows: the first warning bell sounds at **8:20 AM**, and classes begin at **8:25 AM**. Recess is from **10:15-10:30 AM**. Lunch is from **12:00-12:45 PM**. School will be dismissed for the day at **2:55 PM**.
- Regularly scheduled full school days for Middle school are as follows: the first warning bell sounds at **8:20 AM**, and classes begin at **8:25 AM**. Recess is from **10:35-10:45 AM**. Lunch is from **11:40-12:20 PM**. School will be dismissed for the day at **2:55 PM**.
- Regularly scheduled full school days for High school are as follows: the first warning bell sounds at **8:20 AM**, and classes begin at **8:25 AM**. Classes are 60 minutes per block, with 5 minutes between classes. Lunch is from **11:40 AM - 12:20 PM**. School will be dismissed for the day at **3:00 PM**.

EARLY DISMISSAL EVERY FRIDAY

- On Fridays, we will have our professional collaboration time from 2:30-3:30 PM, changing our end time to **2:15 PM** for K-8 and **2:25 PM** for High school.

CALENDAR AND COMMUNICATION

- Included with this letter is a calendar for the 2022-2023 School year. **Changes happen often, please check our website regularly, at www.mrcs.ca for updates throughout the school year.**
- In order to receive newsletters and updates, we will need your email address. **If we do not yet have your email address, or if it has changed, please let the office know.**
- Christmas Break will be for two weeks. The last day of school before the break is **Friday, December 16, 2022. The break goes from Monday, December 19, 2022 returning to school on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.**
- Spring Break will be for two weeks. The last day of school before the break is **Friday, March 10, 2023. The break goes from Monday, March 13, 2023, returning to school on Monday, March 27, 2023.**

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

- If your child will be attending Kindergarten, please see the letter from Mrs. Lozinski and Mrs. Tigchelaar (Mrs. T) included in the email.

TUITION INFORMATION

By now, each family should have submitted their payment option and one of the following:

- PAD Agreement (if new one required). These were due on June 30 with the first payment coming out of your bank account on July 1 (payments are for 12 months)
- Families that choose to pre-pay the entire year should have submitted a post-dated cheque for July 1.
- Families that choose to pay in two installments should have submitted a post-dated cheque for July 1, 2022 for 50% of tuition and a second post-dated cheque for January 1, 2023 for the remaining 50%
- Please check with our Financial Business Manager, Olivia Bergen for the total amount owing if you have not submitted payment yet. Please email her at: finance@mrccs.ca

RE-REGISTRATION

- Re-registration takes place in January 2023. Re-registration will be automatic, and re-registration fee of \$100 is due by Friday, January 13, 2023.

SUPPLIES

- The school **will** provide K – 5 supplies. The fee for supplies is included in tuition.
- Grade 6 - 8 can order their supplies from School Start with this link. It was also previously sent in a BUZZ at the end of June. <https://schoolstart.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=648fe758c192d294d11a5121a&id=f70c3326bc&e=81e1670831>
- Grade 9 - 12 please see supply list on our website under the parent update centre under downloads. <https://mrccs.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/High-School-Supply-List.pdf>

INDOOR SHOES

- Students in K-4 will require indoor footwear (gym 'runners' that will do double duty as P.E. shoes - no boots or dress shoes, please.) This will make it easier to maintain a clean school building.
- These are also required in case students have to evacuate the school due to an emergency. If you have a younger child who is unable to tie his or her own shoes, please consider runners with velcro fasteners.

FIELD TRIPS

- We will need to have an Annual Field Trip Permission for each family. This will be sent out within the first week of school via google forms through an email. Since all field trips are part of the total education program at MRCS, all students will participate in such field trips unless they are not in school that day. Parents will be notified of all trips in advance in the form of writing, by the teacher in charge via the monthly classroom calendars, and/or personal notes or emails. All regular field trip costs are covered in tuition. We invite you to participate in our field trips as drivers or chaperones. As drivers, you are expected to have a valid license and carry at least three million liability. All parents driving for field trips must be registered in the school office by filling in a Volunteer Driver Registration (located at the office), ordering a Drivers Abstract (BC Driving Record Search) and completing a Criminal Record Check. You will find all this information in the parent update centre on our website. (Password is Colossians1:16)

MEDICAL INFORMATION

- **The school cannot dispense medications without proper paperwork.** If your child suffers from frequent headaches, must take medication regularly, or requires an epi-pen on hand, please contact the school office to make arrangements. Medication must be brought from home along with a "Permission to Administer Medication Form" signed by a parent. This is the only way the school can dispense medication. For those families who had medication at school this past year, please make sure to check with the office for date expired medication and/or restocking the supply.

MUSIC PROGRAM

- Instrumental music is an integral part of our Music Program. Band is compulsory in grades 7 & 8 as part of the Music Program. Parents are required to supply instruments and will receive information from the Band instructor, Mr. Davison.

FAMILY DIRECTORY

- Each school year we publish a Family Directory in the fall that includes all the names, emails and cell phone numbers of our school families. This directory will be made available to our own school society only. It cannot be used for any type of sales or soliciting calls. If for some reason you do not wish some or all your information to be published, please make that request, **in writing or by email, and submit it to Mrs. Cramer in the school office by Friday, September 9, 2022.**

TRAFFIC & PARKING LOT

- When you park at school, please follow the one-way flow of traffic to park in the school parking lot, and do not stop in the driveway. Thank you for your cooperation in this. Please also pull all the way into the drop off lane before dropping your children off, so that you do not impede traffic. **There is no waiting/parking in the drop off lane.** If you are parking your vehicle, please **remember to back into your parking spot.** When you leave the parking lot, you will then have a full and clear view, keeping safety at MRCS a priority. Please note the school zone sign and speed.

PETS AND ANIMALS

- We ask that all families leave any pets at home or in their vehicle, unless prior arrangements have been made with the child's teacher.

OFF PROPERTY PRIVILEGES

- This is a privilege for grade 9-12 only. Students **MUST SIGN IN AND OUT**, with full name and a reason, whenever they leave school property. **This is a ministry of education compliance** and ensures our students safety in the event of an emergency.

Secondary Possible Additional Fees - Grades 7-12 – 2022-2023

- Esperanza Missions Trip (Grades 10-12) - \$350.00 (fundraising can be done to lower this cost)
- Graduation expenses: Trip, banquet tickets, photos, etc. Will be presented to grads and families at Grad Parent meeting in the fall. (Fundraising can be done to lower these costs)
- Instrument rental (\$100.00 approx.) (Grade 7-9).