

WELCOME TO MRSS!

Congratulations on your acceptance to Maple Ridge Secondary! You have made a great choice when selecting MRSS for your secondary school. There are many exciting adventures waiting for you in grade 8 - encountering bigger hallways and bigger students, changing classes every period, juggling homework, making new friends, and getting involved in clubs and teams to name just a few. Along the way there are many people to help make sure you have a great year.

We are happy to welcome you as part of our Rambler community. A core belief of our school is that none of us are equal until we are all equal. Our school values diversity, equity and inclusion. We look forward to offering you the opportunity to become actively involved in the pursuit of excellence in academics, athletics, fine arts, and citizenship.

FULL DAY VISIT - MAY 24

On **Wednesday, May 24** you will come to MRSS for a full day to experience a “day in the life of a secondary school student”. Our Counsellors will deliver your temporary timetable to your elementary school the week before and will answer your questions.

Plan to arrive at MRSS between 8:00 - 8:20 with your timetable and map. You will need to bring a snack, a notebook, pen & pencil and gym strip if PE is on your timetable. If you forget your timetable, need a map, or have questions, come to the office and we'll help you.

We start with an assembly in the main gym at 8:30. After the assembly you will attend the classes on your timetable. Attendance will be taken in each class and followed up in the usual manner so, if you are going to be away, please make sure to advise us.

Our day will end between 2:15-2:30pm. Make sure to have made plans for pick up in advance.

We will send you more information closer to the date.

CONTACT US

Coming to secondary school is a big change for students and parents. If you have any questions, ask us - we're here to help.

Our counsellors can help with questions about timetables, transition issues, personal concerns, special education needs and more. Contact them at 604.463.4175 or by email at:

Mr. Page: sacha_page@sd42.ca

Ms. Kusnezov: tiffany_kusnezov@sd42.ca

Mr. Wade: michael_wade@sd42.ca

For general enquiries please contact Mrs. Crawford by email at kris_crawford@sd42.ca or by phone at 604.463.4175.

LINK CREW – GRADE 8 MENTORS

MRSS has a group of senior students who volunteer to be part of a 'mentoring team' or 'buddy system' called LINK Crew. LINK Crew members receive leadership training so they are equipped to provide support and to plan unique activities for our grade 8 students throughout the school year.



Your Grade 8 student will be linked up with a LINK Crew member for the entire school year as a support system! Your student will meet their LINK Crew member for the first time at orientation day on August 31 and will keep in touch throughout the year doing various activities.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that our school is located on the traditional and unceded territory of Katzie and Kwantlen First Nation. We welcome and recognize all of our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students and families in our school and MRSS community. As well, we want to welcome and recognize the many different cultures that are represented in our school and community.

GRADE 8 ORIENTATION DAY Thursday, August 31

We have big plans for you on this day! We start the day at 10:00am with an assembly after which our LINK crew (senior mentoring students) take over with all kinds of events and orientation activities just for you. You'll also be given your timetable and are welcome and encouraged to spend some time finding your classrooms once we are done.



Things to consider:

- Plan to arrive no later than 9:45 a.m. and make your way to our main gym
- Dress comfortably

We will provide lunch but consider bringing a snack and a bottle of water

- You'll be finished sometime around 4:00-4:30pm

If you are unable to attend, don't worry. While we get nearly 100% turn out for this day, we recognize that sometimes it can't be avoided. You can collect your timetable on the first day of school.

FRENCH IMMERSION COMMITMENT

We want to confirm with parents of students who have enrolled in our French Immersion program that your student is committed to pursue their entire grade 8 year in the French Immersion program. **Transfers to the English stream will not be permitted during the school year.**

If you have changed your mind and now wish to study in the English stream, your student will be removed from MRSS and placed at your catchment school for grade 8. You can request a transfer back to Maple Ridge Secondary but there are no guarantees of acceptance.

HOW OUR TIMETABLE WORKS

We will follow a linear system for the 2023/2024 school year meaning that you will take your mandatory courses like English, Science, Math, Social Studies and PE all year long. Exploration and Discovery courses are about 6 weeks and run on a mini-semester system, rotating through these courses all year long: Foods, Info Tech (Woodwork, Computer Assisted Drafting, and Metalwork), Textiles, Art, Career Education, Drama, Music, Leadership, and Art. We also run a languages rotation where students will take a mini introductory course in French, German, Japanese and Spanish. In Grade 9 you will have the opportunity to pick some of these courses as electives so these mini courses give you a taste of opportunities await you.

Sound complicated? Don't worry, we'll help you figure it out.

COOL THINGS TO DO AT RIDGE

At MRSS there are a lot of things to get involved in from sports to clubs and more. Joining our Band or Choir program, a team and/or a club is a great way to make new friends and connections at school.

At MRSS we take our sports seriously and have won many titles within the school district, provincially, and nationally. Our teams include badminton, ball hockey, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, curling, field hockey, field lacrosse, golf, power lifting, rugby, soccer, track & field, volleyball and wrestling.

We have several clubs and groups that may pique your interest including Circle of Indigenous Youth, Coding Club, General Politics Club, Model United Nations, Rainbow Connection, Scorekeeping, Strategic Games, Student Council, Astronomy Club, Fly Fishing Club, Tutoring Club, Video Games Club and so much more.

We also pride ourselves on student leadership and offer opportunities to be a student leader.

