

# WELCOME TO MRSS!

Congratulations on your child's registration at Maple Ridge Secondary! There are many exciting adventures waiting for your student 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 they have a great year.

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

## FULL DAY VISIT - MAY 21

On **Wednesday, May 21** your student will come to MRSS for a full day to experience a "day in the life of a secondary school student". We'll deliver their temporary timetable to their elementary school the week before.

Students should plan to arrive at MRSS at the GYM entrance (at the west side of the school) between 8:00 - 8:20 with their timetable and map. If they forget their timetable, need a map, or have questions, they should come to the office and we'll help. They will need to bring a snack, a notebook, pen & pencil and gym strip if PE is on their timetable.

We start with an assembly in the main gym at 8:30. After the assembly they will attend the classes on their timetable. We'll provide lunch for them (or they can bring their own if they prefer). Attendance will be taken in each class so, if they are going to be away, please make sure to advise us by calling the school at 604 463-4175.

Our day will end between 2:00-2:15pm. Make sure to have made plans for pick up in advance.

## 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](mailto:sacha_page@sd42.ca)  
Ms. Kusnezov: [tiffany\\_kusnezov@sd42.ca](mailto:tiffany_kusnezov@sd42.ca)  
Mr. Wade: [michael\\_wade@sd42.ca](mailto:michael_wade@sd42.ca)

For general enquiries, or if you're not sure who to contact, please contact Mrs. Crawford by email at [kris\\_crawford@sd42.ca](mailto:kris_crawford@sd42.ca) or by phone at 604.463.4175.



## LINK CREW – GRADE 8 MENTORS

MRSS has a group of senior students who are 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 student will be linked up with 1 or 2 LINK Crew members for the entire school year as a support system! They will meet their LINK Crew member(s) for the first time at orientation day at the end August, the week before school starts, and will keep in touch throughout the year doing various activities.

## PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

At MRSS our Grade 8 students use a paper planner to help organize their day and week. Additionally, we encourage students and families to download our planner app from the App Store (it's free and safe to use). You can enter your student's timetable and always know what classes they have on any given day. And, you can see what's going on in our calendar at the touch of a screen. We'll send this information home with your student at the orientation in August.

## GRADE 8 ORIENTATION DAY

**Thursday, August 28**

We start the day at 9:00am with an assembly after which our LINK Crew take over with all kinds of events and orientation activities to help ease your student's transition and familiarize them with the school.

They'll also be given their timetable and are welcome and encouraged to spend some time finding their classrooms once we are done.



We anticipate that all incoming Grade 8 students will attend. We'll send out more information closer to school opening.

Things to consider:

- Students should arrive no later than 8:45 a.m. and make their way to our main gym
- Students should dress comfortably and appropriately for school

## FRENCH IMMERSION COMMITMENT

We want to confirm with parents of students who have enrolled in our French Immersion program that you have committed your child 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 your child to study in the English stream, they will be removed from MRSS and placed at their catchment school for Grade 8 if you do not live in our English catchment area. You can request a transfer back to Maple Ridge Secondary but there are no guarantees of acceptance.

## INTRODUCTION TO ELECTIVE COURSES

In Grade 8 we give our students the opportunity to try different courses that they may not have been exposed to. This helps to prepare them for future years when they have the opportunity to pick elective courses. Students don't get to pick which of these courses they might like to try but rather they cycle through 4 six-week mini-courses. We call these our Explorations and Discovery courses. The courses include: Art, Drama, Computers, Foods, Music, and Textiles.

We also expose our Grade 8s' to languages in similar rotation. Students will take French, as well as an introduction to Japanese and Spanish.

Students interested in Band and/or Choir will take these courses all year long. If any of these three courses may interest your student, plan to speak with our Grade 8 counsellor for more information.



## 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 a team or club is a great way to make new friends and connections to the school.

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

We have several clubs and groups that may pique your interest including the Astronomy Club, Circle of Indigenous Youth and Allies, Dungeons and Dragons, Fiction Addition Club, Graphic Novel Club, Model United Nations, Physics Olympics, Rainbow Connection, Scorekeeping, Student Council, Video Games Club and so much more. We also pride ourselves on student leadership and offer opportunities to be a student leader with our LINK Crew and in Leadership classes.