



Margaret "Ma" Murray
Community School

11504 - 105 Avenue
Fort St. John BC V1J 0R8
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Monday, August 26th, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to Margaret "Ma" Murray Community School. On behalf of the staff, we would like to say how excited we are to see all our students and families as we start our school year. We have been receiving a number of questions regarding opening day, school supplies and procedures. Hopefully this newsletter will help to address your questions and put you somewhat at ease for start-up.

Gratitude and Kindness will continue to be our virtues for the month of September. We have so much to be grateful for in our school, our community and our province. We are so grateful for the generosity of others. A special thank you to families and staff who watered our gardens over the summer.

The staff have been working hard to plan for their classrooms, spirit day activities and back to school activities. If you know of families who have moved in to our catchment area, the school will be registering students at the following times:

- Monday, August 26th, 9:00-3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 27th, 9:00-3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 29th, 12:00-3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 30th, 9:00-3:00 p.m.
- Friday, August 31st, 9:00-12:00 noon

Setting registration times will optimize our work day at the school so that we can give our new families undivided attention when you come to see us.

First Day Procedures: School will begin for grade 1-grade 6 on **Tuesday, September 3rd**. Bus students will start arriving around 8:00 a.m. Students catching the bus at **Ecole Central** need to be at the bus area at Central by 8:05 a.m. as the bus leaves at approximately 8:10 a.m. Other bus families should receive pick up times directly from your bus drivers. Upon arrival at school, students will check in at the tables outside by the flagpoles. Each student will receive a label to identify their classroom teacher. Newly registered students will come to the table assigned for new students, where one of our staff will welcome them and help them find their classroom. This label will be stickered to their shirt to identify which class they will be assigned to. Once the bell rings, we will have the students line up outside in the field by the cones labeled with their teacher's name. These cones will be in the same location as last year. All new students will be escorted to the correct entry point.

Classrooms will be brought in once the bell rings and students will settle in with their assigned teacher for the morning. As we are unsure of the configuration of the school at this time (we are not sure which families have moved in or moved away), your child will be assigned to a teacher until Friday. At that time, we may have to do some shuffles if there are fluctuations in registrations. All staff will work together to make your child feel safe, secure and supported.

Dismissal on the first day will be at **10:45 a.m.** Supervision will be provided to all bus students until their bus arrives to pick them up. Wednesday, September 5th will be a full day. Students will need to bring their lunch and inside shoes for the second day of school.

Kindergarten: Kindergarten students will be on a gradual entry. The kindergarten teachers will be calling all families on **Tuesday, September 4th** to review the schedule for each child. Full day kindergarten begins on **Wednesday, September 11th**. We are looking forward to the arrival of our new kindergarten students.

Cell Phone Policy: On January 26th, 2024, the Province [announced three actions](#) for the safety and well-being of students in relation to digital technology. The announcement included restrictions on the use of cell phones in schools. Margaret "Ma" Murray Community School expects a learning environment with limited distractions and the responsible use of digital technology. It recognizes the research that shows that frequent cell phone interruptions in the classroom, social media platforms with addictive algorithms and an increasing level of cyberbullying and online exploitation of young people, are having a negative impact on instruction, learning, and student mental health. Personal devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, tablet computers, smartwatches, and portable video game systems.

Guidelines/Principles:

- Students will have access to school/district-owned technology at an age-appropriate level that supports learning and the development of digital technology skills and digital citizenship.
- Students will have access to school/district-owned telephones should they need to get ahold of parents in an emergency or if they are sick.

- As outlined in an Individual Education Plan (IEP), Learning Support Plan (LSP), or health plan, schools will exempt specific students from restrictions on the use of personal internet-connected devices when they are needed for full inclusion in a specific learning activity
- At the elementary school level, the use of and access to personal internet-connected devices will not be permitted at any time during the school day.

Effective September 1st, 2024, students will be expected to adhere to the following minimum restrictions on the use of personal internet-connected devices: No access to or use of such devices at any time during the school day. This is essentially a “bell-to-bell” restriction from the beginning of school to the end of the day. Parents are reminded that elementary students are always under direct supervision and that the school will communicate with home for any emergent need that arises. The expectation is that once on school grounds, cell phones are put into backpacks and not accessed for any reason. If a student needs to call home, they are to come to the office to call from the office.

School Fees: The School Board has approved our school fees for the 2024-2025 year as well as the School bell schedule. We ask that fees be paid by October 1st. Please see the school fee table along with the bell schedule below. School supplies have arrived and are teacher specific. We hope that parents take advantage of purchasing supplies from the school as this alleviates families from having to search out lists and supplies. We buy our supplies in bulk and pass along these savings to our families. It also ensures that students receive the supplies that their specific teacher wants to use.

Grade:	Supplies:	Cultural Fee:	Busing Fee:	Agenda:	Total Cost:
Kindergarten	\$50	\$10.00	\$10.00	Not applicable	\$70.00
Grade 1-3	\$40	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$70.00
Grade 4-6	\$40	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00- (Mrs. Francoeur/Mrs. Clarke exempt)	\$70.00 \$60.00 (Mrs. Francoeur & Mrs. Clarke)
Other:	<u>Camp Cameron:</u> \$40.00 to offset the cost for the trip	<u>Team Sports:</u> \$20 for teams requiring buses and referees	<u>Field Trips:</u> Up to \$10 for each field trip	<u>Classroom with Technology Fee:</u> Insurance Charge for Grade 6: As per board \$30	

Families can make payments online via MyEducation BC Family Portal. This is a secure platform to pay for your child's school fees. Payments can be made using Visa, Mastercard, AMEX and Visa Debit and Mastercard Debit. We will continue to allow cash for school fees should you prefer to pay with cash. The parent/guardian user guide is available for download from the school website or at this link: [MyEducationBC Online Payment Parent Guide \(https://myedbc.prn.bc.ca/family-portal/\)](https://myedbc.prn.bc.ca/family-portal/). The debit machine will also be available after September 30th.

2023-2024 Bell Schedule:

8:25 a.m. Regular Supervision begins	12:15 p.m.	Lunch (students come in to eat)
8:40 a.m. Warning Bell	12:35 p.m.	Warning Bell
8:45 a.m. Classes Begin	12:40 p.m.	Classes begin
10:15 a.m. Recess	2:45 p.m.	Dismissal
10:30 a.m. Warning Bell	3:00 p.m.	Playground supervision ends
10:34 a.m. Classes Resume		*students heading home**
11:55 a.m. Bell for going outside time*		

Bus Students: Many of the students will be arriving on buses. We have the tentative arrival schedule but not departure times. This schedule will be set up in early September once transportation knows how many students will be taking the bus. Any new families that require their children to ride the bus, will need to complete a transportation form. Any family who has had their physical address changed (currently on a bus route but have moved locations and have a new physical address) will also have to fill in a new transportation form. There will be supervision at the school when the students are dropped off and until they are on their bus for their return trip home. Transportation forms can be found at the district website at: <http://www.prn.bc.ca/transportation/>. You can also contact bussing for further information at (250)263-6425 or (250)263-6426.

School Meals: M.M.M.C.S. will be offering a school meals program starting on September 16th. Menus will be coming home on Monday, September 9th, so please watch for them. All directions will be included in the menu paperwork. This is a successful program provided for by the district and we look forward to providing this option for your families.

Many students and families are feeling anxious about coming back to school. Attached at these links are a few interactive story slides. You just open the link and click on a picture, an item or a bolded word. We hope you enjoy [MMMCS First Day of School](#) and [Back To School 2023](#).

We have included a calendar for September with the dates we know so far as well as the Revised District 2024-2025 Calendar, and criminal records check information. We look forward to meeting all families as you arrive on the first day of school. I am hoping you are all as excited as we are for the third year at MMMCS. Enjoy your last weeks of summer holidays!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Scheck
Principal

Ms. Kim Asai
Vice Principal

Linda Gibos
Secretary

Margaret Ma Murray Community School



Margaret "Ma" Murray
Community School
Week Ahead 2023-2024
September 3-6th, 2023



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Labour Day School Closed	3 First Day of School Dismissal at 10:45 a.m.	4	5	6
9	10	11 First full day of Kindergarten	12	13
16 Assembly @ 9:00	17	18 Josten Studios school pictures	19	20 Non Instructional Day School Closed
23	24	25	26	27 Terry Fox Run Information to follow

