



Hillcrest Middle School

2161 Regan Avenue, Coquitlam, B.C., V3J 3C5 ● Phone 604-936-4237 ● Fax 604-937-6878
Nadine Tambellini, Principal Tony Romano, Vice Principal

Summer 2015

WELCOME BACK!

Dear Parent/Guardian

We hope you are enjoying your summer. We are anticipating with excitement the beginning of the new school year ahead. In addition to welcoming all of Hillcrest's students, their families and our staff back to school, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to new students, their families and new staff. We as a staff and learning community will strive to make your child's upcoming school year their best one yet!

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 8th. Our goal is to make this day as positive and inclusive a beginning as possible for our students. The schedule is as follows:

Your child has been assigned team.

OPENING DAY – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

GRADE 6/7 STUDENTS 9:00 – 9:45

All Grade 6/7 students will meet in their assigned teams. Each team will be greeted by its teachers at a designated entry place around the school. Please refer to the map in this mailing for your child's team meeting place. Students will be ushered into their team's classroom area where they will do an ice breaker, have attendance, and be given some important notices to bring home. At this time, students will learn tentatively who their home room Core teacher will be.

Please note that some Grade 7s and all grade 8s will begin at 9:30, a half hour later than the Grade 6s and 7s. Grade 8s who are arriving early will be asked to wait outside the school at their designated meeting place.

GRADE 7/8 STUDENTS 9:30 - 10:15

All Grade 8 students will meet in their new teams. Please refer to the map in this mailing for your child's team meeting place. Students will be ushered into their team's classroom area where they will do an ice breaker, have attendance, and be given some important notices to bring home. At this time, students will learn tentatively who their home room Core teacher will be.

PARENTS are invited to the library/courtyard for coffee and refreshments from 9:00 – 10:15 am. This will be a great opportunity for you to meet some of our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) members!

Enclosed in this mailing: Opening Week Info, School Supply List, PAC invitation and PAC family donation letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, at any time. We look forward to working together with you in the coming year to support your child's education during this important time in their life.

OPENING WEEK

Wednesday, September 9th will be your child's first full day of school for the year. Students will begin their day by reporting to their Core class "homeroom" where they finished up the previous day. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday activities will be planned to welcome students and orient your child to their team, core classes, and the general expectations. Students will be assigned their locker and planners and textbooks will be distributed. Your child will begin his/her first term of Explorations classes on Wednesday.

Classes will begin at 8:38 am and conclude at 2:55 pm. Students should arrive at school prior to 8:30 am so they have time to visit their lockers and be in class by 8:38 am.

STUDENT INFORMATION / STUDENT EMERGENCY RELEASE FORMS

Enclosed in this mailing are important forms that you need to complete for your child and have them hand in to their teacher or to the office the first week of school. The release information you provide is critical in the event of an emergency. In the event of a student release situation, your child will only be released to the adults identified on this form. The Ministry of Education has implemented a new Student Information System and all data has been mapped over to "MyEd". In saying this, when we send home the data verification sheets, some of the information has mapped over incorrectly. No information has been lost just moved to different categories. Please bear with us in this time of transition. Thank you for your time and attention to these matters.

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER AND HILLCREST WEBSITE

Last year nearly 95% of our families received the school newsletter electronically. Our goal is to increase that number this year! We want to ensure that you receive the newsletter and other important school news promptly and efficiently. (We find hard copies often get stranded in the bottom of backpacks!) We have also saved significantly on our photocopy costs and redirected funds to learning materials and resources.

Please write your email address on page 2 of the enclosed Student Emergency Release form (also available online) so that we can email our newsletters to you.

We also encourage you to visit our website:

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/middle/hillcrest/pages/default.aspx>

This site provides you with information about daily life at Hillcrest including our school Calendar and Student Handbook. E-forms can be completed from this site beginning the afternoon of September 8th.

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES (\$35 PER STUDENT)

Just a reminder that student fees are due Wednesday, September 9th. Please provide a cheque for \$35 payable to Hillcrest Middle School. Student fees pay for the cost of many things, including transportation, Team Awards, and student planners/agendas (to be given out on Wednesday, Sept. 9th). In addition, student fees also help defray the cost of special events for the students throughout the course of the year. Please contact Miss Tambellini or Mr. Hewlett if you are unable to provide the student fees at this time.

ATHLETIC FEE (\$15 PER STUDENT)

In keeping with the other middle schools in our district, there is an **Athletic Fee of \$15.00**. This is a one-time fee for students participating in our extracurricular athletic activities. Students may join as many activities as they like and are only billed one fee of \$15 for the school year. The athletic fee is to help offset the costs associated with referees, tournaments, team jerseys, maintaining equipment, Middle School Association fees, engraving and some special events. During the season, participants are provided with team jerseys, use of equipment, coaching, entry in district tournaments, gym or playing field time, etc. In comparison to the fees for joining community sports, this is an excellent opportunity for students at a very low cost. Our Extracurricular Athletic Program is run solely on a voluntary basis by our staff.

Activities offered to students include: volleyball, swimming, badminton, basketball, track and field, wrestling, rugby, x-country running, swimming, etc. If you wish to pay by a cheque, it should be made out to Hillcrest Middle School.

YEARBOOKS (\$55 - OPTIONAL)

We will now be selling yearbooks in the first week of school and the cost will be \$55 that can be submitted at the same time as the student activity fee. Yearbooks are optional.

TENNIS FEE (\$10 PER STUDENT)

We are bringing a tennis instructor in to work with all PE classes in the fall so this cost is **OPTIONAL AT THIS TIME** and if you want your child to participate in lessons.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

All parents are invited to attend the first PAC meeting of the year to be held on Tuesday, September 22nd. The monthly PAC meetings are a great opportunity for you to find out more about the programs and happenings at Hillcrest. Parent involvement, at any level, is strongly encouraged and appreciated.

PAC Annual General Meeting September 22nd 7:00 pm in our Library

SUPPLY LIST

Please note this is a general supply list. Individual teachers may request additional supplies during the course of the year. **Please DO NOT send Whiteout, Laser Pens, or Permanent Markers to school.**

All Students Require:	
1 calculator	1 pair scissors
1 30 cm ruler (wooden or hard plastic)	2 red pens
1 pencil case	2 white vinyl erasers
2 large glue sticks	2 highlighters
10 HB pencils	6 blue or black ballpoint pens
1 package index dividers	1 package lined loose leaf paper (400)
20 duo tangs (assorted colours)	4 black fine line pens (non- permanent)
1 package pencil crayons	1 geometry set
1 Dictionary (pocket size)	1 USB flash drive (1 or 2 gb)
1 French/English Dictionary	
1 hand held pencil sharpener with shaving catcher	
PE Strip (shorts T-shirt, running shoes)	
1 cloth or mesh drawstring bag for PE Strip	
Students new to Hillcrest Middle will also need: 1 Bienfang 8x11 Sketchbook (100 sheets)	

Students who pre-ordered their supplies through “Creative Children” will receive their packages of supplies on Wednesday, September 9th. All students with missing or damaged supplies should email support@creativepacks.ca with the subject line ‘MISSING OR DAMAGED SUPPLIES’ for faster resolutions to their questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nadine Tambellini, Principal