



Hillcrest Middle School

2161 Regan Avenue, Coquitlam, B.C., V3J 3C5 ● Phone 604-936-4237 ● Fax 604-937-6878
Nadine Tambellini and Tony Romano, Administrative Team
www.sd43.bc.ca/hillcrest

Mission Statement:

The Hillcrest School Community is committed to providing educational opportunities in a safe and respectful environment that encourages students to become responsible lifelong learners, both individually and cooperatively.

September 5th, 2017



Tambellini Talks

WELCOME BACK!

Our warmest greetings to each of you as we once again begin a new school year.

The start of the school year signals a new beginning, an opportunity to approach new goals in partnership with each other. We hope to work diligently to ensure the success of all students. **Communication** is the key. A newsletter will be sent home each month. Please read it and stay informed about events and offerings that are happening at the school, and meet with your child's teacher regularly to note ways to assist in and monitor your child's learning. Also, please feel free to contact me by phone 604-936-4237, drop by the office or email me at ntambellini@sd43.bc.ca.

We would especially like to welcome all new families who are attending our wonderful school. The staff is very excited about the wonderful possibilities and opportunities the year ahead holds for every student.

We would like to welcome the following **new** and **returning** staff members to our school community:

Nicole Curran	Core Teacher
Justin Lee	Core Teacher
Vinay Sharma	Core Teacher
Erika Lundgren	Core Teacher
David Gwilliam	Student Services Teacher
Jonathan Wiskar	Tech Ed and Challenge Teacher
Alia Yeates	Dramus and Beginner Band
Ari Silver	Caretaker
Leanne Gormann	Secretary
Shannon Penner-Hunt	Youth Worker
Shawn Garrett	Educational Assistant
Michelle Hurtubise	Educational Assistant

Children will be settling into their new classes and all programs are moving ahead smoothly. A big thank you to our wonderful staff and to all the parent volunteers for their hard work and organization to get us off to a great start. The staff of Hillcrest Middle School are looking forward to a wonderful year with your children.

I would like to encourage you to play an active role in the school. Research shows there is a direct positive correlation between parent involvement with student achievement and a child's self-esteem. We understand that not every parent can give their time at the school. However, every parent can spend time at home asking about their child's day, reading to or with their child and playing with their child.

I would also like you to 'preview' an article within this newsletter of our afterschool program called **Kateslem**. It is a program currently operating at our school as well as Summit, Como Lake and Summit Middle Schools. The program runs every school day from Monday to Friday from 3pm to 5:30pm with snacks provided and it is FREE, other than a nominal donation!!!! There is limited space.

Another way to be involved is to attend the **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)** meetings. The first PAC Meeting of the year will be Tuesday, September 19th at 7pm in our library. Communication is the key to your child's success at school. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to communicate them to your child's teacher immediately. We look forward to getting to know both you and your child(ren).

We will endeavour to keep you "up to date" of the many activities and events on our Hillcrest Middle School Learning Portal. A newsletter will be sent home electronically but you can also access it on our Learning Portal. Please visit our Hillcrest website at:

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

An **eForm button** is on our school homepage.



The district eForms are a collection of online forms aiming to replace the paper version used at schools. These eForms eliminate the printing, collating, distributing, collecting, record keeping, sorting and filing of their paper counterpart. The forms available include:

1. School Policy – to be filled for each student attending your school yearly (the code of conduct and possible other information are being updated yearly and parents need to be informed).
2. Volunteer Form – to be filled by each volunteer once per school level as the Criminal Record Check is valid for 5 years (some exceptions will occur at the elementary level).
3. Driver Volunteer Form – to be filled by each volunteer yearly as the driver abstract needs to be submitted yearly and accurate vehicle information is required. Driver volunteers must fill out a volunteer form as well.
4. Medical Form – to be filled yearly but only for students who have a medical condition. This form also contains the Request for Medication Administration form and is printer-friendly.
5. Personal Owned Devices Form – to be filled yearly by students and staff who wishes to use their personal owned devices on district network.
6. Emergency Release Form – We will not be using this form at this time (paper copies have been sent home with each student)
7. Absence Report – to be filled as needed to alert schools that a child will be away.

The above forms will be available for use immediately.

Your child was given a Parent Information Package today with paperwork to be signed and returned to the school asap. As well, Mrs. Gormann is sending out school fees using KEV which invoices and receipts the following fees: Activity Fee \$35, Athletics Fee \$20 (optional) and the Yearbook Fee \$55 (optional).

Thank you in advance for all your support. I look forward to getting to know all of you and your children.

Miss Nadine Tambellini
Hillcrest Principal

Vending Machine:

We have four vending machines located in the MPR and near the gym entrance doors for students' use during break times and before/after school. The office **DOES NOT** reimburse for issues with the vending machines. We will be following the policies used in other public places- *Use the vending machine at your own risk*- money will NOT be reimbursed if gobbled in the machines.

Public Transit for Students:

There is public transit in the morning (7:30 - 9:30 am) for Route # 151 Westbound and Eastbound. Thermal & Como Lake would be the closest stop. The students getting off the bus travelling Westbound will need to cross Como Lake. Information on Translink routes, schedules and rates can also be found at: <http://www.translink.ca>.

Use of School Equipment:

We provide some sports equipment such as footballs, soccer balls and basketballs to students during break times. We are encouraging students to bring their own sports equipment and games.

Student Fees:

Beginning this week, the **Student Fee of \$35** is due to the office. Please note, we also collect an **Athletic Fee of \$20** (if your child gets involved in one or more sports teams during the school year). The athletic fee includes the costs for CMSSA fees, equipment R&R, teacher release, team celebrations, team jerseys/ uniform replacement, tournament fees and First Aid athletic supplies. These fees will be collected via KEV. We will also collect the costs for **Yearbook of \$55** (this is OPTIONAL).

Individual Picture Day:

Picture day is Friday, September 8th. All students must have their photo taken for school services whether you are buying a package or not. You will receive a proof sheet to help you decide whether you would like to order pictures. Photo packages will be delivered to the school in approximately three weeks with picture retake day announced later.

Ways to support your child at Hillcrest Middle School:

- 1) Phone the office and let us know when your child is going to be late or absent. **If your child is running late, they need to stop in at the office for a late slip and then go to their class.**
- 2) Check your child's planner every night and look for newsletters and notes in the plastic pocket.
- 3) Talk to your child's teacher if you are worried about his/her behaviour.
- 4) Make sure that your child does their homework or does some 'reading' every night.

Parent Information Booklet: (COMING HOME TONIGHT)

The Parent Information Booklet outlines the school's and District's policies and expectations for safe and responsible student behaviour. We ask that you review these documents and discuss them with your child, so that everyone has the same information and understanding. We also ask that you sign all permissions (p. 15th to 18th) by September 8th (or complete the eForms on our webpage) whichever you feel comfortable with and have your child share this with their teacher. We believe that this will help to ensure a happy and secure year for all.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the admin. team, if you have any concerns during the year.

Also Included in the package is the **GREEN Student Verification Form and the Emergency Preparedness Form**. Please make any updates and remember to sign the back. Help our office keep your information updated if your phone numbers and/or contacts change during the year.

Phone Use:

Students are permitted to use the OFFICE phone if given permission by their teachers and in emergency situations. Please make sure that your child is aware of who is picking them up after-school, where they are to be met and make any necessary after-school arrangements the night before.

Peanut Allergy:

Several children in our school have **very severe peanut allergies**. Contact with peanuts, foods containing peanuts, or peanut oil products would cause a life-threatening situation for these children.

At Hillcrest Middle School, we will try to take every precaution to ensure the safety of these children. We request your support in this matter by being sensitive to the children’s condition by selecting lunch and snack items for your child that do not contain peanuts. While we cannot legally request that items containing peanuts not be sent to school, we ask that you give serious consideration to the selection of food items sent to school with your child. We appreciate the concern and cooperation of all families in this matter.

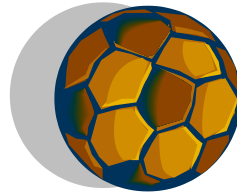
REGULAR BELL SCHEDULE

8:35	Warning Bell
8:38	Block A
9:30	Block B
10:20	Nutrition Break
10:35	Block C
11:30	Block D
12:20	Lunch
1:05	Block E
2:00	Block F
2:55	Dismissal

Get Prepared for Back to School Safety!

As school doors open, traffic gets a little heavier on our streets. People are back from holidays, school buses and public transit are on regular routes, and more people are walking, cycling or driving to school. To help with the transition and share the roads safely, read our safety tips. Help everyone stay safe this school year!

- 1) Observe School Zone Speeds** Although you should always obey posted speed limits, it is especially important during the school year. Children crossing the road on their way to and from school can easily get distracted and step into harm's way. Slowing down and being vigilant is crucial to keeping children safe. Children are often out throughout the day at recess, lunch, and for certain classes, so it's important to drive slowly throughout the day.
- 2) Watch for Darting Children** Kids are small and easily distracted, and for drivers, this can create dangerous situations on the roads. Be vigilant and alert behind the wheel. You never know when a small child might step out from between parked cars or off a sidewalk. Your fast reflexes might be needed to prevent an accident. This safety tip was prepared by Public Safety Canada in collaboration with the [Canada Safety Council](#). To learn more about how to become better prepared to face a range of emergencies, visit www.GetPrepared.ca.



Parent Sign-in Procedure Reminder:

All parents are invited and welcome in the school. However, to monitor who is in the school, we ask parents and/or caregivers who are planning on staying longer than 5 minutes to check in at the office (except during special event times). A pass may be provided to let staff and students know that you have a legitimate reason for being in the school. Adults who have not checked in and are not wearing a pass can expect to be stopped by a staff member and questioned as to their intentions in the school. Please understand that our purpose in doing this is to ensure the safety of both our staff and students. Thank you for your cooperation with this procedure.

Hillcrest APL (Annual Plan for Learning):

Hillcrest staff, parents and students will continue our focus on Social Responsibility as our school goal. The setting of objectives and action plans will be completed by staff and reviewed by the PAC. Teacher-based assessments and evidence in addition to district and ministry data will provide evidence of our growth in this area.

Extended Absences:

Each year we are approached by an increasing number of parents who wish to take their child out of school for extended periods of time. Usually this is for reasons associated with family plans or family business. We do not have a procedure for granting students a "leave of absence". Rather it is assumed that parents will make decisions in the best interests of their own child. We are respectful of the fact that many of our families have family members far away, and spending time with them is important. Difficulties arise, however, when parents wish to have some sort of reassurance that their child will not be "behind" in their work when they return. If your child misses school for extended periods of time, he or she will be "behind" in classroom work. Students may well have other cultural and travel experiences that contribute to their overall development, but the many varied daily classroom activities they will miss cannot be duplicated through worksheets or workbooks!

We are not in the position to provide assignments for children who have extended absences due to family plans. Rather we are providing a list of suggested activities that are designed to assist parents with planning for their child's educational needs while traveling. It is your right to take your child out of school due to family circumstances, but once you have exercised that privilege, you must also accept the responsibility of your child's education during that absence.

Shut-Eye Shortage!

A study conducted at Brown University showed that students who don't get enough rest have trouble paying attention in class. Teachers in the study weren't told which were "late nights" for the 6-12 year olds, but they spotted the fall-out right away: forgetfulness, trouble with learning new lessons, and drifting attention. Getting children to sleep on time is as important as getting them to school on time.

Sleep Needs by Age:



Ages 3 to 5	11 hours
Ages 5 to 12	10 hours
Teens	8-9.5 hours
Adults	7-8.5 hours

Student Services:

The Hillcrest student services department is formed by a few very dedicated teachers who support the academic and emotional needs of our students. During the first weeks, student services teachers are helping students become acquainted with the class and team, consult with teachers and provide information to help them differentiate their instruction/assignments if needed. They will also be conducting assessments, reading student files and beginning the paper work which will allow for support in academic areas and for individualized educational planning. In the next couple weeks, students will be bringing home documents to be read and signed. Learning support for students will be provided in a timely manner according to procedures. Thank you for supporting your child as they make the transition to middle school and to our teachers in getting to know how your child learns best.

This year, our Student Services delivery model is running a bit differently due to decreased staffing. Case managers and the admin team will be addressing individual situations if your child is a ministry designated student in family meetings in September.

Volunteer Forms:

As in past years, we acknowledge that school volunteers provide a valuable contribution to the successful operation of our school. The Volunteer activities may include:

- volunteering with small groups or individual students;
- assisting students with special projects;
- providing transportation and supervision on field trips and extra-curricular events; and
- assisting staff with organizational tasks.

While encouraging volunteer involvement in our school, we are also committed to providing a safe, secure and caring environment for all our students.

Kateslem Afterschool Program:

Kateslem is a program that runs every day afterschool beginning the first full week of school and operating Monday to Friday from 3pm to 5:30pm with snacks provided. The Kateslem room is set up like a club with areas for homework use. Students will also access the gym, classrooms, and other parts of the building for planned activities.

The activities offered include:

- Homework assistance
- Literacy skills
- Life skills
- Health, nutrition and hygiene skills
- Community service and leadership
- Recreational activities
- Creative activities
- Friendship and conflict resolution opportunities

Kateslem has a 'needs based' registration program. Parents, teachers and counselors can refer students. Students can also refer themselves. HOWEVER, the commitment is for the year. There is no registration fee, although each student is asked to donate one item of non- perishable food per month, to assist those in need in the Coquitlam community.

The link to the Kateslem is at <http://www.kateslem.com/program/> where you will find information and the registration forms at the bottom of link. **PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM TO MISS TAMBELLINI VIA EMAIL ntambellini@sd43.bc.ca OR AT THE OFFICE if you are interested in signing your child up.**

