

Frequently Asked Questions (Sept 20 / 2023)

Q: Why (or how) is there a shorter day on Monday?

A: We must meet a quota of 1585 minutes per week of class time. When we divide the time up equally over 5 days, we would have a schedule that was 317 per day. This schedule is a challenge and made it difficult to do some things we think are very important for our students:

- Schedule a homeroom time (7 min) to start the day for attendance and announcements.
- Schedule 7 equal blocks so that programs and support can be offered to all classes equitably.
- Have blocks of at least 45 minutes so that explorations (Tech ed, Home Ec. etc) can use equipment and complete projects (like cooking).

To make all three of these priorities possible, we have added 6 minutes to Tuesday – Friday. (A total of 24 minutes added). We have then subtracted this time off our Monday to keep within the 1585 minutes expectation.

Yes, this means your children are dismissed at 2:25 on Monday, and 2: 55 on Tuesday-Friday. Your children get the same amount of school and we feel our time is used more effectively. Students are welcome to wait in the building if your pick-up time is set – please don't worry – they will be safe with us and able to stay the extra few minutes.

Also, teachers are using the slightly adjusted schedule to collaborate and plan with each other on Monday. Although this is outside of the school day, teachers feel it is important to be able to work with staff on other teams during the year and have special meetings when needed.

Q: How do I report an absence?

A: The easiest, most efficient way is to follow this link: [AbsenceReportForm - New Form \(sd43.bc.ca\)](#). The link can also be found on our website: [Home - École Maple Creek Middle School \(sd43.bc.ca\)](#) and look to the right side under "links".

Another way is to call the office and leave a message (604-464-8581) or email the office at maplecreek@sd43.bc.ca

Q: Is the school providing planners?

A: We ordered planners from School Start. Sadly, their warehouse caught fire in Kelowna at the end of the summer. We are still looking to fill this order soon.

Q: Can the school help us with a laptop?

A: Yes. We provide loaner laptops for families that need them. There is some paperwork to fill out for this. We want the computers to be taken care of and returned in June. We have been handing out

paperwork for this. Please contact Ms. Roberts, our teacher librarian if you have questions of need paperwork. Ms. Roberts email is Leroberts@sd43.bc.ca

Q: What happens if my child's computer or (phone) is broken at school?

A: I recognize that computers (and phones) are expensive items. We want students to be careful and learn to take care of them. A locker is the safest place for a phone and we expect them to be in their lockers during the day. Laptops are more challenging as they are being used in class. We still expect students to store devices in safe places (locker, teacher designated area, desks) when not in use. This is one of the reasons students are not to be in classes at lunch without supervision – if an accident is going to happen, it will likely be at this time.

The school has no insurance to cover the costs of repairs. If a device is broken due to an aggressive act, it will be dealt with and parents obviously notified.

Q: What happens if my child is injured at school?

A: If we know about it, one of our teachers who has first aid training will look at them and assess their well-being. We will contact a parent / guardian and let you know what has happened. In serious cases, this might include asking you to come and pick your child up.

Sometimes, a student may have injured themselves but not reported it to a staff member, or in some cases report to a teacher they are feeling fine and don't need help. This can sometimes be a challenge – we can only report what we know about. Please remind your child – if they are hurt (or unwell) tell a teacher or come to the office and we will help!

School District 43 does not provide accident insurance coverage for injuries a student may sustain on school property, or during regular school activities including extracurricular sports. If a student is injured, parents or guardians may be responsible for any costs not covered by MSP or their personal health care plan. Such costs could include ambulance fees, crutches, and emergency dental care.

If you are interested in purchasing student accident insurance, you may wish to consider Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. For more information or to purchase directly online, please visit www.insuremykids.com or call 1-800-463-5437.