



August 31, 2016

Dear Eagle Mountain Middle families;

Welcome to Eagle Mountain Middle School as we begin another amazing year!

As I prepare for my first year at Eagle Mountain, I can understand all the emotions that our students (and parents) might be feeling. I certainly am excited to meet the students and families of our community. I am also a bit nervous being new, but as a parent of a former Eagle Mountain student, I know the year is going to be exciting and full of wonderful experiences.

One thing that helps reduce stress is knowing what to expect from new experiences. This letter will hopefully give you the information you need heading into the first week of classes:

- 1) Students are to arrive at 11:00 am on Tuesday, September 6th for registration and attendance, which should be completed by 11:30am. Students are to go to their designated TEAM area. If they do not know / remember their TEAMS, staff will be on hand throughout the building to direct them accordingly!

As our school enrolment is at capacity and we will have a waitlist of students, it is very important that all children attend on Sept. 6th. If your child will be attending Eagle Mountain Middle this year but cannot make it to school on the first day, please let us know by contacting the school office right away at 604-469-1133 or e-mail eaglemountainsecretary@sd43.bc.ca

- 2) The first full day of school is Wednesday, September 7th, with classes running from 8:25 – 2:50. Our full bell schedule is posted on the website: www.eaglemountainmiddle.ca. Students should plan on arriving between 8:10 – 8:20 to connect with friends and be organized for our 8:25 start. Note that all Fridays are a later start for students – 8:55!

Students will be working in mixed groups on their assigned TEAMS for the first couple days of school. It is our goal to have classes formed and running by Friday, September 9th. During the first couple days, students and teachers will begin to develop school and TEAM spirit and get to know each other. They will learn about school and safety expectations for all areas of the school and learn what it means to be a THUNDERBIRD.

For the first couple days we ask that all students bring a pencil box with a pen, pencil and colouring supplies from last year. We will let students know on Wednesday – Thursday when to bring their new supplies. The complete supply list is attached and also posted on the school website. Supplies purchased from Creative Children through the school will be distributed from the school on Wednesday or Thursday and will be sent home for labelling.

Some other notes:

Technology: The staff of Eagle Mountain Middle school know that contemporary student learning is enhanced by technology and our new school has an excellent wifi infrastructure that supports this. We are a Bring Your Own Device school, supported with three half labs of laptops. Please read the attached BYOD notice for more information.

Band and Choir: This year we are pleased to be able to offer a comprehensive music program with Beginner and Advanced Band, choir and Rock School. More information about sign up for band, choir and Rock School will be distributed soon.

Agenda Books: All students need a system in place to facilitate home/school communication – a place to record homework, important reminders and project plans. Some students are able to use their personal devices effectively for this, i.e. taking a photo of the homework board or texting/emailing reminders to parents and themselves. Many students and families find that an Agenda book/Planner that goes back and forth every day is a good routine. There is an expectation that students will communicate plans, homework, notices, etc. with an adult family member on a daily basis. In order to accommodate individual styles, student/families may agree to use technology for home/school communication, may purchase an agenda when shopping for school supplies or may purchase one (in a choice of two sizes) from the school office for \$5.00.

Open House: The Eagle Mountain Orientation Evening for students and parents will be held on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 pm. We encourage all families to make this evening a priority as we discuss middle school life, priorities for this year, new curriculum and assessment changes from the ministry, and provide the opportunity to meet all of your child's teachers.

More notices!

Coming home in print form next week will be the school calendar for this year, a notice about district approved middle school Activity fees, and a notice about completing a number of policy and permission forms online as e-forms. These will all be distributed once we have established homeroom placements for all students (so don't expect them before Friday).

Walking/driving safety message: We are so fortunate that the majority of our students are able to walk to/from school on a daily basis. With children heading back to school, the BC government, ICBC and police are asking drivers to watch for children, especially in or around school zones. Parents are encouraged to review the rules of the road with their children and go over their daily route to and from school. Attached is a graphic from ICBC with good practical pedestrian guidelines to go over with your children.

Yours truly,

Darren Macmillan
Principal

Jonathan Sclater
Vice Principal