



Welcome Back e-Bulletin – 29 August 2022

Greetings and Welcome Back École Moody Middle School of the Arts Community.

Another school year is before us, and we are excited at the arrival of our students and start to a brand-new school year. We hope you have all enjoyed a very restful summer full of family, friends, laughter, and outdoor adventures. We look forward to meeting you all and sharing our days with all your children over the next 10, 20 or 30 months of Middle School. Hopefully our students are as excited as all of you are to be heading back to school...We are looking forward to get back at it with a new outlook, still mindful of staying healthy and happy. The past couple of years have been difficult for many and we will do what we can to start the year off heading in the right direction building community and supporting each other.

A very big welcome to those who are new to our school. Middle school is a wonderful place to live and learn. We invite you to get involved in the many opportunities that are available to our students, parents, and community members. For our returning students, I challenge you to bring the spirit and care of "All Things Moody" to our learning community each day. I challenge you to be Global Citizens and leaders who contribute to a culture that is truly extraordinary.

Please read the information below in this newsletter carefully and stay up to date with school events by checking our website regularly and reviewing email communications and notifications from both the office and your classrooms teachers. Parent involvement at the middle years level is crucial in determining success for all learners. We know adolescence can be a time to gain some freedom from parents and guardians and we still want you all actively involved daily. In the coming days and weeks, we will encourage you to make contact with the school and even look into supporting some of our initiatives through the EMMSOTA PAC or through our classrooms. Parents are essential partners in the learning process.

We are all looking forward to meeting you all in the coming weeks and months. It is our pleasure to work with your children each and every day. Here's to an amazing year ahead.

Cheers, A Bientot

Mark Clay, Principal

Lindsay Goodridge, Vice Principal

IMPORTANT DATES – 2022-2023

SEPTEMBER	
6	School Opens
14	Photo Day
19	PAC meeting
23	Pro-D Day (District) – Schools not in session
27	Parent and Student Orientation/Open House
30	Truth and Reconciliation Day – Schools not in session
30	Orange Shirt Day – Every Child Matters
OCTOBER	
7	Terry Fox Run
10	Thanksgiving – Schools not in session
17	Photo Day Re-takes
21	Pro-D Day (Provincial) – Schools not in session
NOVEMBER	
10	Remembrance Day Assembly
11	Remembrance Day – Schools not in session
22-24	Communicating Student Learning 3-way conferences
28	Grade 6 Immunizations – Blitz #1
DECEMBER	
8	Winter Concert
15	Report Cards are published
19-Jan 2	Winter Vacation – Schools not in session
JANUARY	
3	Schools re-open after Winter Vacation
30	Focus Day Pro-D Day – School not in session
FEBRUARY	
20	Family Day – Schools not in session
22	Pink Shirt Day
24	Pro D Day (District) – Schools not in session
21-23	Communicating Student Learning 3-way conferences
MARCH	
9	Report Cards are published
10	Last day of school before Spring Break
13-24	Spring Break – Schools not in session
27	Schools re-open after Spring Break
APRIL	
6	Photo Day (class/pod/school)
7/10	Good Friday & Easter Monday – Schools not in session
21	Pro-D Day (District) – Schools not in session
25-27	Spring Drama Performance
MAY	
22	Victoria Day – Schools not in session
25	Presentation of Learning Event Tentative
31	Grade 6 Immunizations – Blitz #2
JUNE	
5	Pro-D Day (School-Based) – School not in session
8	Year-End Music Concert
29	Last School Day / Report Cards are published
29	Year-End Recognition Assembly/Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony
30	Administrative Day – Schools not in session

First Day of School and Opening Week

Preparations have been made for an exciting year and we look forward to greeting all our students, new and experienced! Here is the shape of the day for our first day back on Tuesday September 6, 2022.

Grade 6 Students and New Students to the school will arrive at **10:00 AM on Tuesday, September 6th** for attendance and a brief orientation, which will be **completed by 11:00 AM**. All Grade 6 and new students will arrive to the Gym area and either see their name and Pod/Team on lists posted or will be able to ask one of our staff which Pod/Team they are on. We will have designated areas in the Gym for each Pod.

It is very important that all children attend. If your child will be attending École Moody Middle School of the Arts in 2022-2023, but cannot make it to school on the first day, please let us know by contacting the school office by phone, 604-461-7384, or email moodymiddlesecretary@sd43.bc.ca

All returning students will arrive Tuesday morning at 11:15 AM. They will also find their name on a list confirming which pod they are in. WE will just be taking accurate attendance and giving some instructions for their first full day Wednesday September 7th. We are asking all returning students to meet in the Pod/Team areas where we met last year. See map attached.

Earth Pod: South Side Rock Garden

Wind Pod: West Side of School outside West Stairwell

Fire Pod: Roof Top Patio just overlooking Sports Court

Water Pod: Amphitheatre outside adjacent to the Gym

All information will be posted and there will be staff on hand to help with any questions students may have. Most of our returning students will be in the same Pod. There are always some changes that require students to move pods from one year to the next due to changing enrolment. Please check the lists upon arrival.

Please see the attached bell schedule that will begin official on Wednesday September 7th. Our first few days back will be committed to community building in our Pods/Teams. Activities that focus on our school vision, shared values, and themes for the year. Getting to school on time is a key factor in establishing successful learning routines. Please note we have a later start on Fridays.

Opening Week Community BBQ Friday September 9th at Noon.

We are once again treating our students to a welcome back BBQ on the first Friday back, September 9th. This year we would like to open our event to parents who may wish to join us and make it a true community event. If you would like to join your son or daughter for a hot dog and refreshment on Friday September 9th, please reply to moodymiddlesecretary@sd43.bc.ca so we are able to account for any guests joining us outside of our student and staff population. After lunch we will be finishing out our week with a school wide Arts Starts presentation from **Jess Dance**, a team of passionate dance educators dedicated to reaching all communities in BC and committed to empowering and inspiring our next generation through dance experiences that develop self worth, self expression, and connection to one's body, and each other! Jess Dance will "Bring the Beat" with a hip hop style presentation. This is also a kick off to our Artist in Residence plan for all students to

participate in some performing arts with Jess Dance. More details to come later in September. As we are just getting used to larger groups we will ask that after our BBQ lunch parents make their way home so we can load students into the Gym for our presentation as quickly as possible.

Parking, Transportation and Student Safety

Our parking lot does allow for some drop off and pick up of students and we ask that you support us in making this work in a safe and respectful way. There are only a few drop off and pick up spaces available in our staff parking lot along the south side adjacent to the school. We will have some temporary signage highlighting this space. Please be mindful that this is a **staff only parking lot** and spaces are limited. The flow of traffic is one way in, all the way around the lot and out the same way stopping at the stop sign before entering the intersection. Please drive cautiously and think about student safety first. We strongly suggest you plan accordingly in the first few days and perhaps walk to school with your children, drop off along Buller or park further away on Henry and walk the short distance. Vehicle traffic will be congested as we return to school and construction continues in the neighborhood. Please take some time to remind your children about traffic safety and being mindful of crosswalks and sidewalk use. Please have a look at the map attached. Student safety is of utmost importance to all of us, so please consider doing your best to support our plan. We all thank you.

Timely Arrival

Please assist your child in arriving to school on time. Schedules and routines are extremely important to a student's development and academic achievement as key concepts and lessons begin promptly at 8:30 am. If your child will be late or absent please fill in an "[Absence Report](#)", contact the school office by phone, 604-461-7384, or email moodymiddlesecretary@sd43.bc.ca. Our secretary "call back" is in place to help ensure the safety of our children and we call all contact numbers in priority sequence if a child is not accounted for. Please assist us by ensuring that you have called in to report your child's absence.

Class Placement

It is our goal to have classes formed by Friday, September 9th. However, September frequently brings surprises with changes in enrolment, so it is possible that students will continue to meet in pods or teams for the duration of the first week of classes and possibly beyond. This time is devoted to community building on many levels allowing students and teachers to develop school and Pod/Team spirit and get to know each other. School expectations for personal and social responsibility will be reviewed in all areas of the school as we highlight our core values defined by R.E.S.P.E.C.T. at École Moody Middle School of the Arts. It is one of the most important times in the school year as we establish our routines and culture.

School Supplies

Students will be told on Tuesday what supplies they will need to bring over the course of the first week. It is likely that only the basic pencil box with something to write and colour with will be required. School supplies purchased from Creative Children have arrived at École Moody Middle and will be distributed directly to students by their teacher by the end of the week. You can review our school supply list on our website here: [School Supplies](#)

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

Technology is an incredible tool that supports learning, and we want to ensure students have easy access to it on a regular and timely basis. This does not mean their entire days will be in front of a screen. We will continue to have clear expectations for technology use that include “Tech Free Breaks” at Nutrition Break and Lunch, and cell phones / personal devices stored away when not in use supporting learning in the classroom. More information will be coming to all of you providing details on our process and ideas about how best to make it work for your family. Please stay tuned. If you have yet to purchase a laptop for your child please do not worry. Check through the information we will be sending out and plan to come to our BYOD Information Evening on September 16, at 6 PM with SD43 Learning Services Director of Technology and Innovation, Stephen Whiffin. Your child will not need their computer at school until the second week of September once we have our school year rolling along and students are confirmed in classes.

Lunches

Students will not require a lunch on the first day (Tuesday), but beginning on Wednesday September 7th, please send your child with a snack, lunch and refillable water bottle in the morning. If for some reason you need to drop off a lunch for your child, it can be left at the office for your child to pick up during their non-instructional times. We will begin our year with students eating their lunches in the classrooms and then getting outside, RAIN or SHINE for some fresh air.

Communication

Announcements that are made each morning at the school are posted on our website daily to facilitate shared communication between the classrooms and our school community. Parents with messages for their children are asked to contact the office. Notifications of these messages will be passed on to the student during nut break, lunch time or at the end of the day. As we are protective of the learning environment of all our students we cannot relay messages to students during class time concerning social arrangements. We also ask parents to respect our technology expectations and **not to text or contact** their child directly by cell phone during the school day. Messages sent through the office are always the best way to go. Thank you.

Early Dismissal

Whenever possible, please make appointments for your child outside of school hours. If you do need to pick up your child early, we ask that you advise your child, your child’s teacher *and the office* in advance so that the student is ready to leave without interrupting their classmates. All students must sign out in person at the office before leaving school property. Students must have permission to leave before they will be allowed to sign out. Permission may be in the form of a phone call or email to the office, or a note.

After School Supervision

Our supervision schedule for staff concludes at 3:10 pm each day. This supervision schedule provides students time to safely begin making their way home by foot, bike, car or bus. Students that are staying for an after-school team or club are safely supervised by the staff leader of that planned event. Morning supervision is limited as well and students should not be arriving to school much earlier than 8 AM unless specifically to attend an activity or in some exceptional situations.

If students are waiting for a ride after 3:10 pm we ask that students wait in the main foyer unless they are staying to get help from a teacher, or to work on a project, a supervised classroom, library, or the Youth Lounge. Some after school athletic and community programs will start up in September. Stay tuned for information regarding registration for teams and after school clubs and programs. Please work out your before and after-school plans and procedures with your child as soon as possible, so there are no surprises. We will continue to remind and review socially responsible expectations around the school as we get into our year. We appreciate you support with this.

SchoolCashOnline

Our School District has moved fully to ONLINE fee payments, permission forms and newsletters. Within the first two weeks of school, we will be sending home on-line notices regarding Student Activity Fees and optional items such as Athletic Fees and Yearbook purchases. If you are unable to receive on-line forms please let us know at the office.

To maximize our communication, please ensure you are registered for SchoolCashOnline. If you have not yet registered, please do so as soon as possible – click here: <https://sd43.schoolcashionline.com/> Then click on **'GET STARTED TODAY'**