



## CITADEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

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13 September 2021

Dear Citadel families:

Today students moved into classrooms. The process of class building began last May and continued until this past Friday when new students arrived to register. There are so many considerations that go into building classes but now that they are set, today's organization is the one we move forward with for the current school year.

### **From the Office**

Later this week our office will send parents information about all those forms: Student Verification, School and District polices, Walking Field Trips, and Student Fees.

### **Late arrivals and early departures**

Students arriving after morning attendance must check in at the office. If your child has an appointment and needs to leave the school during the day, please call our office staff to inform us of the early departure details; your child will need to sign out at the office as well - we **must have your verbal consent before we can release your child.**

### ***Picture Day is on Thursday***

Students will have their individual photos taken on Thursday.

### **A note on cell Phones**

These devices are everywhere in our world and middle school is no exception. There is no need from a learning perspective to have a cell phone at school. We have a "landline" in the office that is available for student use whenever needed. That said, many students will bring cell phones to school and may choose to use them at break times. However, cell phone use is not permitted during instructional time (class time); students need to keep devices in backpacks (or in lockers if we get to use them).

Students are responsible for their cell phone care and security exclusively. Being a responsible citizen includes the responsible use of technology. We use laptops in the educational setting, not cell phones. You know your child and their ability to use technology responsibly. Before sending them off to school with a device capable of great good and harm, consider having those conversations about what the phone is to be used for. I can tell you in almost all instances where a student has not made responsible decisions with their cell phone, parents are often greatly surprised. Most middle school students manage just fine. Some do not. Learning about digital citizenship will be a key focus this year. Help your child be a good digital citizen by talking about expectations and responsibilities that come with a cell phone.

## **BYOD Laptops**

One form of technology encouraged at middle school are laptops. Beginning last year, our teachers worked with SD43 personnel to implement, school wide, a *bring-your own-device* (BYOD) initiative for students. This initiative is not new in SD43 and is in place in most SD43 middle schools and some elementary settings already. Children bring their own laptop to school to use within the daily classroom context. Teachers work with students to develop their digital literacy and digital citizenship competence in an educational context. Our aim is to develop our BYOD capacity this year and in the coming weeks will provide more details.

We do not suggest that parents rush out and buy a new laptop device tomorrow but as students move through the grade 6 – 12 experience, laptop devices will become increasingly used. Learning how to use technology in an educational setting is one of those changes that come at middle school. We encourage using what you already have; if you have a device at home that your child can bring to school it simply needs the following requirements:

You will want to ensure that any laptop used has:

- *A working keyboard*
- *A protective case*
- *Minimum 10" screen*
- *Camera/webcam for stills and video capture*
- *8 or more GB of RAM 128 GB storage*
- *Mac Laptop: minimum OS High Sierra 10.13*
- *PC Laptop: minimum OS Windows 10*

**Optional Accessories:**

- *Extra charger*
- *Personal mouse (wireless or otherwise)*
- *Carrying case / backpack with a padded laptop slot*
- *Personal headphones or earbuds*
- *Stylus (for annotating and drawing)*

## **Looking Ahead on the Calendar**

September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Individual Picture Day
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	School based Pro-D Day
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	PAC mtg
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Fox Run
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Truth and Reconciliation Day (schools closed)
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	World Teachers' Day
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Holiday
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Communicating Student Learning (early dismissal)
October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Communicating Student Learning (early dismissal)
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Provincial Pro-D Day
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Children of the Street</i> parent presentation (evening)
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	Term 1 explorations end