



Hello Parents & Guardians,

August 2026

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope you and your families had a wonderful summer. As we begin this year, we're filled with hope and excitement for all that lies ahead. Our staff has been working hard to create a positive and engaging environment where your children can thrive, learn and grow.

We're committed to partnering with you to ensure that your child has a successful and fulfilling year. Together, we can make this year one of growth, achievement and joy for all our students. This newsletter contains a lot of important information that you should familiarize yourself with, including a reminder of the provincially mandated changes to our electronic device policy.

Thank you for your continued support, and here's to a fantastic school year ahead!

School Fees

School fees support a multitude of student activities that foster a warm, caring and inclusive environment at Ridge. Student fees help support our school app, supplies for art, foods, woodwork, automotive, music, etc. Additionally, we invite guest speakers to support classroom learning or specific programs. This year school fees are \$35. School Fees can be paid on the SD42 Parent Portal beginning Monday August 24th. Please contact the school office if you are unable to pay the fees on the Portal. Students can only pick a locker once student fees have been paid.

Locker Selection Times

Early locker distribution is available for students as per the scheduled below. Lockers will still be available once the school year begins so early selection is just a bonus. To claim a locker students must first pay their \$35 student fees. Students need to provide a lock for their locker – we do not sell locks. Additionally, students taking PE (all Grade 8, 9 and 10 students as well as some senior students who are taking an elective physical education course) will need a 2nd lock for the PE locker in the changerooms. Students are reminded that they must lock their clothing and personal effects in a locker during their class time in the changeroom to secure them.

Tuesday, September 1

7:00-8:00pm – Grade 12s only
@ **Senior Sunset** – enter the
Courtyard through the door
beside the art room/delivery door

Wednesday, September 2

Report to Caf for instructions
Grade 11 @ 11:00-12:00
Grade 10 @ 12:30-1:30
Grade 9 @ 2:00-3:00

Thursday, September 3

Report to Caf for instructions
Grade 8s after Orientation
(Orientation begins at 10am)

Urgent- Breakfast Program Volunteers Needed

One of the greatest strengths of our school is the incredible support we receive from our families and community. This year, we're looking for a few caring **parents and grandparents** to join our Breakfast Program volunteer team.

Every **Tuesday and Thursday morning**, we serve breakfast to students, helping them start the day feeling welcomed, nourished, and ready to learn. We're looking for volunteers who can give a little of their time—**7:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.**, once or twice a week—to help prepare and serve breakfast, visit with students, and assist with light clean-up.

You don't need any special experience—just a friendly smile and a willingness to help make a positive difference in a student's morning. Many of our volunteers tell us it's one of the most rewarding parts of their week!

If you're interested in joining us or would like to learn more, please email **Mr. Frend** at gfriend@sd42.ca.

Thank you for helping us continue to build a caring, connected school community where every student feels they belong

Yearbook Orders

Yearbooks will be sold online through the Parent Portal beginning later in September. Yearbooks can be ordered up to and including January 29, 2027, so there's no immediate rush. Note that this is a firm deadline. Watch your email or check the school website for when sales begin. The cost is \$65 - our preferred method of payment is the Parent Portal. We will also accept cash or cheque (payable to MRSS).

District Student Email

Students currently have access to their @sd42.ca email accounts. Students can log in with the same password they used last year – passwords were not reset.

MRSS Wifi Access

MRSS wireless network BYOD passwords are reset at the beginning of August each year. Please update your devices with the new credentials to maintain uninterrupted access to the school's Wi-Fi network. Should you encounter any issues or require assistance, feel free to attend our **Student Wifi/Tech Clinic with the Vice Principals here at MRSS on Friday, September 4th from 12:00-1:30 pm. Attending our clinic should help ensure you have wifi access on day 1 of school.**

MyClass Student Schedules (Timetables)

Student schedules will be available through MyClass accounts later in the day on **September 4th**. Student MyClass log-in information will only be sent to individual @sd42.ca student email accounts. Students can login using the password they had before they went on summer break.

Students needing MyClass help must email myclass@sd42.ca as school-based staff cannot reset MyClass passwords.

Parent MyClass Accounts

MRSS parent MyClass accounts will be re-enabled after schools have finalized their placements in mid-September.

Course Change Requests

Our counsellors and administrators have spent hours creating/balancing class sizes and composition. As such, course change requests will only be considered in the following situations:

- 1) the student has passed a course at summer school
- 2) the student needs to repeat a course that wasn't passed last year
- 3) the student's post-secondary plan has changed, and a new course must be added to satisfy specific admission requirements
- 4) the student is not in a position to graduate and needs schedule adjustments.
- 5) the student does not have a full timetable

To request a course change students will use the posted QR code for their grade. Students will indicate their name, which of the above criteria they meet to request a change (along with an explanation) and the requested change. Counselors will only connect with students if a change is possible.

Our classes are incredibly full, so there will be very few timetable changes accommodated. -

First Week of School

Tuesday, September 8 – Opening Day – 1:00-1:45 only

On this day Grade 8-11 students will report to their A Block class from 1:00-1:45pm for introductory activities. Grade 12 students are to report directly to the gym for an assembly.

Wednesday, September 9 - Day 3: B, Tutorial Hold, A, D, C Grade 8 rotation classes begin

Thursday, September 10 - Day 4: F, Tutorial Hold, E, H, G Grade 9 assembly during Tutorial Hold

Friday, September 11 - Day 2: E, Tutorial Hold, F, G, H Grade 11 assembly during Tutorial Hold

Monday, September 14 - Day 5: C, Tutorial Hold, D, A, B Grade 8 assembly during block A,
Grade 10 assembly during Tutorial Hold

Attendance

The District's Absence Notification system will notify parents late in the afternoon of same day absences and late arrivals to class. An improvement with the new system is more information. You will receive a text message and an email of the class, which block of the day, and the name of the teacher.

If you have questions, please reach out to the teacher for clarification. You can find a list of email addresses on our website under the CONTACT US tab.

While we value and support your commitment to your child's education, we want to emphasize the importance of classroom engagement and the role it plays in your child's learning journey.

Classroom instruction offers more than just content delivery; it provides opportunities for interactive learning, peer collaboration, and teacher guidance tailored to your child's individual needs. These interactions foster critical thinking skills, creativity and social development, which are integral components of a well-rounded education.

When students miss classroom instruction, they may miss out on valuable discussions, hands-on activities, and real-time feedback that enrich their learning experience. Additionally, trying to cover missed material independently may not always align perfectly with the pace and focus of classroom instruction, potentially leading to confusion or gaps in understanding which may negatively impact student achievement. Further, assessment of student learning, especially at the end of June, can require in-person real time interactions involving teacher and student.

If your student is going to be absent for all or part of a day, please log their absence via the Parent Portal or contact the school directly by telephone. A reminder to families that if students need to leave school during the school day, we must confirm with a parent or guardian. If you have not advised us either by phone or the Parent Portal, we will contact you by telephone to confirm.

While some teachers may be able to accommodate requests for work during student absences, teachers are **not** required to provide work to students who miss school for vacations, travel, or non-school activities.

STUDENTS IN BUILDING NOT ATTENDING CLASSES

During last school year we noticed a significant increase in the number of students who would either skip class and work in the cafeteria or library or sign out of school/class and stay in the building to work on other coursework. If students are in the building they are expected to attend their assigned classes.

Maple Ridge Secondary School App

Students, parents and school staff have access to the full year calendar of activities and events on our app. Simply download the app for free from your App Store by searching, **MySchoolDay**. Once downloaded, select Province>School District 42>School. This app serves as an agenda for students. It is simple to use and allows students to personalize their settings. We will push out information about upcoming events and last-minute notifications using this app. Another great function is the ability to enter your student's class schedule so on any given day you can tell what class they are in. This is very useful when making appointments.

Grad Parent Meeting

We will host a grad parent/guardian meeting in the cafeteria on Thursday, September 17th at 6:30 pm. We hope all grad families will attend.

Grade 8 Parent Night

Parents of Grade 8 students are encouraged to join us at 6pm on Thursday September 3rd in the cafeteria for our Grade 8 Parent Information Meeting.

Student Photos

Student photos will take place on Tuesday, September 15th beginning in the morning. Students will be called down alphabetically by grade. Photo retakes are scheduled for Thursday, October 8th.

Parent Advisory Council

Our first PAC meeting is scheduled for September 16th at 7pm. All parents are welcome.

Hall Passes

Building on our work over the past 2 years to reduce student hallway traffic during instructional time, we are implementing a hall pass system to enhance the safety, security and overall management of student movement during instructional time, including Tutorial. By requiring students to carry hall passes when outside of their classrooms, we can better monitor and control traffic in the hallways, ensuring that students are where they need to be and reducing unnecessary disruptions to the learning environment. This system also helps prevent unauthorized wandering, ensuring that students are accounted for, minimizing opportunities for misbehavior. Ultimately, a hall pass system supports a more organized, disciplined and safe school environment, allowing both students and staff to focus on education. More details on our hall pass system will be shared with students during our first week of school.

Electronics Device Policy

At MRSS the use of personal digital devices (smart phones, smart watches, laptops, ear buds etc.) will be determined by each classroom teacher to support the teaching and learning that will occur in the classroom. If a teacher chooses to restrict the use of personal digital devices during instructional time, the use of devices will be permitted to support inclusion and accessibility to learning such as: digital literacy, communication, medical and health needs and as defined by an individual education plan.

When use of electronic devices is not permitted the device should be stored out of sight in a bag or backpack. The storing of electronic devices in bags should happen before the student enters the learning space. These guidelines are also applicable during Tutorial.

When a student is using a device at an inappropriate time the student must give the device to the teacher when asked; students who refuse can expect progressive discipline for both inappropriate use of phone and refusing to comply with the direction of a staff member.

Students can freely access their phones before school, at lunch, during class transition, and after school. If there is an emergency and parents need to connect to their student during school hours, please contact the front office.

We have been working with our staff on these changes and sought input from staff, Student Council and our Parent Advisory Council (PAC).

We hope that all parents and caregivers will support our staff's efforts to create a positive and productive learning environment. We appreciate your support as we implement significant changes that are intended to benefit our students and their learning by focussing their technology use during instructional time for educational purposes only.

If you have any questions or concerns about these changes to our school cell phone/electronic device policy for students, please contact the appropriate grade level administrator.

SD42 WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY PROCEDURE

SD42's Wearable Technology Procedure establishes clear expectations for the responsible use of wearable devices, such as smartwatches, AI glasses, fitness trackers, wearable cameras, and other devices capable of recording, transmitting, or displaying information. The procedure applies to students, staff, parents/caregivers, and visitors while on school property or participating in school-related activities. Students may only use wearable technology with the express permission of the supervising principal or teacher when it is necessary for a supervised educational purpose. Teachers may require devices to be removed during instruction, assessments, or examinations to protect academic integrity. Wearable technology must never be used to secretly record, photograph, or monitor others, or in ways that compromise privacy, safety, or security. The district also recognizes that some wearable devices are required for accessibility, medical, or communication needs, and reasonable accommodations will be made. Failure to follow the procedure may result in school or district disciplinary action. Please read the full procedure here:

<https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/Procedure-5770-Wearable-Technology.pdf>

SD42 Parents, Guardians and Guests Code of Conduct Policy

School District 42 is committed to maintaining schools and district sites that are safe, welcoming, inclusive, and respectful places for students to learn and staff to work. Creating this positive environment is a shared responsibility, and parents, guardians, guests, volunteers, and service providers all play an important role.

When interacting with students, staff, or other members of the school community (including while using email), parents and visitors are expected to communicate respectfully, use appropriate language, and approach concerns with a willingness to understand different perspectives and work collaboratively toward solutions. Questions or concerns should be addressed through the district's established process for raising concerns rather than through social media or other public forums.

Visitors are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that promotes a positive school climate by treating everyone with dignity, respect, and courtesy. Behaviour that is discriminatory, harassing, intimidating, threatening, abusive, or disruptive will not be tolerated. This includes verbal abuse, aggressive conduct, bullying, hate speech, discrimination, or actions that interfere with the learning environment or the ability of staff to perform their duties.

To ensure the safety and security of students and staff, all visitors are expected to follow school procedures, including reporting to the office upon arrival when required, complying with staff directions, and respecting school safety protocols. Parents and guests are also expected to respect the privacy and confidentiality of students and staff and refrain from unauthorized photography, video recording, or sharing of personal information.

When concerns arise, the district encourages respectful dialogue, active listening, and collaborative problem-solving. Maintaining positive relationships between families and schools helps create the best possible learning environment for students.

Failure to follow the expectations outlined in the Code of Conduct may result in actions that include limiting or restricting access to school or district property, removal from school events, or other measures necessary to maintain a safe and respectful environment, in accordance with applicable legislation and Board policy.

The full policy can be viewed here: <https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/Policy-10100-Parents-Guardians-and-Guests-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

Cafeteria Service

Our teaching kitchen offers a wide selection from snacks and beverages to hot lunches and everything in between. When we begin our school year, the cafeteria is closed while it is cleaned and restocked and while our Chef Instructor teaches the FoodSafe course that culinary students must pass before preparing food in our teaching kitchen. We also close the cafeteria the week before our breaks (Christmas, Spring Break, and at the end of the year). During times of closure, we typically offer pizza sales on a limited first come-first served basis. Additionally, we have our school stores and the Health Hut that sell muffins, beverages, smoothies, noodles, Pizza Pops, etc.