



**PETER EWART
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

August 30, 2023

Welcome Back Ravens!

Where does the time go!! We hope everyone had an amazing and relaxing summer with family and friends. It is really important to take time to rest, reconnect and recharge in the beautiful BC summers. While we are always a little sad to see summer come to an end, we are very excited about another fantastic year ahead. We are thrilled to welcome our students back to school and are looking forward to connecting with all of you soon. We can't wait to work with your children and explore the exciting programs our teachers have planned for this coming year. Our priority is to foster an environment that is safe while maintaining the integrity of our Middle School philosophy leading to academic success for our students and a sense of belonging for all. Our Peter Ewart community would like to extend a warm welcome to our Grade Six students and new students to our school. We look forward to welcoming our students and staff to our school for the 2023-2024 school year.

PEMS GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Vision:

An inclusive community where relationships are nurtured, courage is celebrated, integrity is built and excellence is pursued.

Mission:

Believe in your abilities
Belong to your community
Be Better than you were yesterday

We are excited to share that extra-curricular opportunities will be returning for students in the fall! We want to encourage all students to become involved in the many aspects of Raven culture that make Peter Ewart Middle School such an amazing place to work and learn. There are so many ways to enrich your middle school experience within our community through academics, explorations, extra-curricular clubs, music, and athletics. So, get involved!

Parents, we invite you to become involved partners in all aspects of the school. To help you get the year started off right, below is some important information you will need about the first few days of school. Please take some time to read through it carefully.

STAYING CONNECTED

In order to stay informed, please be sure you use at least one of the following on-line methods:

Attendance: If your child is going to be away from school – you can email pemattendance@sd35.bc.ca to



**PETER EWART
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

report the absence.

Website: Stay up to date at Website: <https://pems.sd35.bc.ca>

School supply lists can be found on the school website.
<https://pems.sd35.bc.ca/student-life/school-supply-lists-2021-22/>

District: Be sure to check out the district's website for the latest updates www.sd35.bc.ca

SEISMIC UPGRADES

As you drive past our school, you will notice that part of our school is under construction for seismic upgrades. There will be minimal impact on the students during this construction. During the construction process, some of our space will be reconfigured to accommodate more classroom and learning space within the building. While the construction process is taking place, some students will be in portables while their classroom space is being upgraded. There are a variety of phases and therefore once the classroom space is completed, students will move back into the building into their new space and the next group will move out to the portables. We will share the most up to date information as we move from one phase to the next phase of the construction project.

CLASS PLACEMENTS

Parents will be emailed in the afternoon on Tuesday, September 5th indicating their child's tentative division and where to meet their teacher outside on Wednesday, September 6th. We will also have class lists posted outside of our main entrance on Wednesday morning. In addition, staff wearing hi-vis vests will be outside Wednesday morning to assist students in finding their line up/meeting spot and their class. Please know that as the School District reconfigures their numbers over the month of September, this may not be the continued placement for this school year. We appreciate your patience as we go through this process.

PLEASE NOTE: There have been some changes to Grade 7 classroom placements for the 2023-2024 school year. This is due to staffing changes and increased enrollment.

ILLNESS/ABSENCE

Please keep sick children home from school. This way they do not infect other children. However, sometimes children are recovering and no longer contagious. If this is the case, we ask that you please contact your child's teacher.



**PETER EWART
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Peter Ewart has an automated system where we contact the home of every student who is absent to inform parents of their child's absence. You can help our wonderful secretaries by emailing the school at pemattendance@sd35.bc.ca and letting us know your son or daughter will be absent or late. If this is not an option we ask that you phone the school at 778-726-4815. This not only saves us from making an unnecessary call, but if there are students out there who need our help, it helps us identify them faster.

BELL SCHEDULE

2023-2024 Bell Schedule

8:20	Warning Bell
8:25 – 9:45	Block 1
9:45 – 10:00	Recess
10:00 – 11:20	Block 2
11:20 – 11:53	Lunch (15 mins eating/18 mins outside)
11:53 – 1:13	Block 3
1:13 – 1:18	Transition
1:18 – 2:38	Block 4

DROP OFF/PICK UP

Please review some important reminders below related to pick-up and drop-off in the North parking lot of the school:

- The lane at the front of the school will remain closed at pick-up/drop off times as construction for seismic upgrades continues.
- Pick-up and drop-off should only take place in the pick-up/drop-off lane in the North parking lot
- There is no stopping to pick-up or drop-off in the through lane or throughout the parking lot
 - Children cutting past cars pulling in and out of the pick-up/drop-off lane is extremely dangerous
 - Even if your child is right there and ready
- Staff should be treated with respect
 - They are there to keep all children safe
 - If you have a concern with a staff member, please contact administration
- Cones should not be driven over or moved
 - You may not understand why they have been placed where they are, but rest assured, in a school with 900 students, there are a variety of factors for us to consider
- Please drive under 10 km/hour on school property
 - We want all of our students to make it home safely
- Pull ahead as far forward as you can in the drop-off lane
 - The cars in line behind you are waiting to pick up their children too



**PETER EWART
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Most of Peter Ewart Middle School's catchment is within walking distance. We are fortunate in this community to have the vast majority of our students within walking distance to and from school. Furthermore, we have parking to the north of our grounds. If you're finding it particularly frustrating to drive onto our school property and your child is unable to walk from home, consider dropping them off nearby and having them walk one of the many pathways to our school. (Please see attached parking lot map.)

MORNING LINE UPS

Teachers will meet their students at their designated doors/meeting spots. The spots will be marked with a sign that has the teacher's name and room number on it. Doors will also be marked. Further instructions will be included in the email sent out by the classroom teachers on September 5th.

LATE ARRIVALS/EARLY PICK UPS

Late arrivals need to enter through the front entrance and sign-in at the office. If you are picking your child up early, you must call the office and sign them out.

LOCKERS

We intend to use lockers this year. With the construction that is happening at Peter Ewart, some classes may need to wait until the construction is completed in their assigned area of the school before they are assigned a locker. Lockers are assigned by the classroom teacher. Please note that most lockers are 'half' lockers, so those big suitcase style rolling backpacks will NOT fit in them. We request that locks are to be purchased through the school as we have the ability to open them if a child forgets the combination.

VISITORS TO THE BUILDING

Any visitors to the building must phone ahead and make an appointment through the office to enter the building. The school phone number is posted in the exterior doors. Visitors enter the building through the main entrance. Visitors must sign in before entering the office.

ATHLETICS

We will be offering athletics this year. We will keep you updated as these become available.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

We will be offering clubs this year. We will keep you updated as these become available.



**PETER EWART
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

THE FIRST WEEK:

The following is a glimpse of what the first week of school will look like.

THE FIRST WEEK	
Tuesday, September 5 th	ONLY Grade 6 students and WEB Mentors attend school from 8:25 am to 11:15 am.
Wednesday, September 6 th	First full day of classes for ALL students. The block rotation is HEFG. Explorations classes start.
Thursday, September 7 th	The block rotation is ABCD. Explorations classes start.
Friday, September 8 th	The block rotation is EFGH. Grade Group Assemblies. PLEASE NOTE: Changes in classroom placement may occur due to District reconfiguration. Please continue to check your emails over the weekend for any important information.
Monday, September 11 th	The block rotation is BADC.

UPCOMING DATES

- September 15 – Pep Rally (House Teams)
- September 27 – Meet the Teacher 6-7pm
- September 29 – Assembly for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
- October 2 – National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Stat Holiday. School Closed)
- October 6 – School Improvement Day (Students do not attend)
- October 9 – Thanksgiving Monday (Stat Holiday. School Closed)
- October 20 – Professional Development Day (Students do not attend.)
- October 25 – Parent/Teacher Interviews (1 Hour Early Dismissal) 1:45-4:30
- October 26 – Parent/Teacher Interviews (1 Hour Early Dismissal) 1:45-7:30

Thank you for taking the time to read through this email and we realize that you may still have some questions. We will continue to give you the most up to date information as we receive it. We are incredibly excited to welcome your child back to school. This year will be a wonderful opportunity for students to connect with peers and with staff and to engage in the terrific opportunities that Langley Middle Schools have to offer. We can't wait to get started!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Labby (Proud Principal), Kim Casquilho (Vice Principal) and Andrei Baboi (Vice Principal)