

From the Raven's Nest...

for Friday, Sept 5, 2025



Dear Families,

Well it is has been a great first week! All students have transitioned into their permanent classes and we capped off the week with a whole school trip to Gorge Park. We really appreciate your support helping your child settle into the routines of middle school and I know that getting back into morning routines can be a struggle. The energy in the school is palatable and we are looking forward to a great year. We continue to endeavour to share timely and specific information with you so that you can stay informed and updated about the various events and happenings here at RMS. Please also visit our website, and specifically the Parent Info page, in case you have missed any of these updates.

Today we transitioned into our permanent classes and, I know that not all of the students are placed in their preferred classes, and I want to thank you for your patience, and feedback, about student placements as we have been finalizing our classes this week. Class building is a process that starts in May each year and there are many aspects that are considered including student/teacher pairings, friend connections, suggestions from your child's previous teacher, and overall class composition. I realize that not all students will have their ideal choice in all these areas and that may lead to some angst tomorrow.

We appreciate your support with this and ask that you give these placements some time so that students can settle into their classes. Many of the concerns dissipate as they realize there are other chances to work with their friends or preferred adults throughout the school. If the issues, or concerns, with your child's permanent placement persist after a couple of weeks, then please feel free to connect with me by email or phone so we can understand the concern and see if there is a potential resolution to it.

Next week will be another busy week with regular classes, our first PAC meeting, and the start of our Exploratory programs, Music Programs and Athletic teams. This coming week we will have opportunities for students to sign up for Leadership, Cross Country, Soccer, Touch Rugby, and Ultimate Frisbee teams. There are so many different activities and opportunities that it is sometimes hard to keep track. Once schedules are created, I will do my best to include practice, rehearsal, and meeting times in this update but please encourage your child to also listen to the daily announcements for reminders.

What's happening at Rockheights next week:

Monday, Sept 8th -

- Exploratory classes start

Tuesday, Sept 9th

- Music classes start today
- 6:30pm RMS PAC meeting in the library

Wednesday, Sept 10th

Thursday, Sept 11th

Friday, Sept 12th

Looking Further Ahead:

Tuesday, Sep. 16 PHOTO Morning

Thursday, Sep. 18 Deadline for
returning Student Verification Forms

Thursday, Sep. 18 Meet the Teacher
Night and Welcome Back BBQ

Friday, Sep. 19 Terry Fox Run (toonies
for Terry)

Monday, Sep. 22 Professional
Development Day (No School for
students)

School Forms and Parent Connect

As it happens every year, we need to ensure that we have updated information for your child and the emergency contacts in their lives. That is why we have sent home the package of forms this week and ask that you to review and complete them this weekend and return them with your child before Thursday

September 18. These forms include **The Student Verification**

Form, Our School Code of Conduct and the **Student Emergency Release Form**. In an effort to reduce the amount of paperwork, the district has also moved to an online system for many of the student permissions. This can be done through Parent Connect which is an online tool that allows you to give permission for a variety of reasons from field trips, to Photo permissions, to Google accounts and volunteer driver forms. Many of these documents have been uploaded so permission can be given without the cumbersome forms. Please go to <https://parentconnect.sd61.bc.ca/>, create an account and the documents should be there to complete. For more information about signup and use of Parent Connect, please visit <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/parent-connect/>

Rockheights Daily Bell Schedule



Warning bell:	8:35am
Start time:	8:40am (in class)
Nutrition Break:	9:48-10:03am
Lunch:	11:55am -12:40pm
Dismissal:	2:50pm

Information for our new RMS families! – A refundable deposit of \$20.00 is required from all new Rockheights students. This deposit is for educational resource materials. This deposit is refundable when students leave the school provided all materials have been returned. If families do not request the return of this deposit, it is used for the maintenance and expansion of the learning resources available to students.

This deposit can be sent in by cash, cheque (payable to Rockheights Middle School) or online using the School Cash Online system at <https://sd61.schoolcashionline.com/>

Please join us for the first Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting this week

Parent involvement and student success are strongly connected. One of the best ways to become involved at Rockheights is to participate in the school Parent Advisory Council. We extend an invitation to come out to the first meeting of the RMS PAC which is THIS Tuesday (September 9th) here at the school in the Library Learning Commons. We hope you will be able to join us.

Food update I have had a few inquiries about when the various food programs will be starting up for the year. Currently we have morning toast and daily snacks available for all classes. These are available for all students as we know that hungry students have a hard time concentrating in class.

Starting next week we have our daily lunch program which is available to students that are unable to bring a lunch from home. Students that were a part of the program last year, either here or at their elementary schools will be eligible, but if you do not feel this is still necessary, or if you are unable to send lunches with your child, please reach out so your child can be added to this program. Resources are limited, but we want to ensure that all students are able to have something to eat for lunch.

As for the food orders (Pizza and Subway), we are still trying to finalize the details so they will not begin for a couple of weeks. Please watch these notices for details and specifics on how to order those items.

Thank you again for your support this week and we look forward to seeing you in the school soon. We hope that if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 250-384-7125.

Sincerely,

Aaron Maxwell

Principal

Beth Richardson

Vice-Principal