

From the Raven's Nest...

for Friday, August 28, 2026



Dear Families,

Welcome back everyone! We hope you all had a terrific summer, and I am sure you are starting to gear up for coming back to school on Tuesday, September 8th! We wanted to take a minute to connect, and to welcome you and your children back to school for the beginning of the 2026-27 school year. The teachers, educational assistants, office team, custodial team and administrators are eagerly preparing for the new year. Rockheights Middle School is ready for a great start and we look forward to an outstanding year!

We realize that communication is important and many of you are likely inundated with messages and emails. For new families to our community and as a reminder to returning families, we do ask you to please look for our **weekly communication that will be sent home to families each Friday (in this format)** to let you know about upcoming events and important pieces of information for your child and family. These types of communication, unless they are extremely time sensitive, will be emailed home at the end of each week, so we appreciate you taking the time to review them.

First of all, we would like to extend special greetings to all of our new students, families and staff. **Welcome to Rockheights!** I would also like to take a minute to introduce myself to those that are new to the community. My name is Aaron Maxwell and I am the principal here at Rockheights. This year is my sixth year, and I feel very honoured to be a part of this community as I know it is such a special place. The connections that our staff have with our students, families and the greater Esquimalt Community really make this a special place for our students to come and learn each day. I look forward to meeting each of you and working, and learning, with you and your children.

For the first week of school, we are involving all the students and staff in class and team building activities to promote school spirit, unity and a sense of belonging. Students will be organized in **temporary classes** as we can not finalize placements until we have confirmed numbers. We intend to have students assigned to their finalized Advisory classes by the end of the first week. I know this can be an anxious time, and we have been gathering information and building classes since the beginning of May, so we appreciate your patience and support as we do everything we can to ensure a positive placement for your child.

On Tuesday, September 8th school will start at 9:30am and students will be dismissed at 11:30am. Grade 6 students will meet at the front of the school and when the bell goes we will walk down to the gym. Grade 7 and 8 students will be able to find their temporary classes on the rolling boards at the front of the school and when the bell goes, will proceed directly to their classes. Adults will be available to help clarify any confusion or provide directions to students.

Starting on Wednesday, we will begin our regular daily schedule, which starts at 8:35am and dismisses at 2:50pm. Students will enter the school through their classroom entrances and follow all the protocols learned on Tuesday. No school supplies are

Rockheights Daily Bell Schedule 2026-2027



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

needed for the first week, but please ensure that your child has lunch, a water bottle, and is dressed for the weather - as we will be spending much of the week outdoors.

ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT!

Parents are expected to call the school at (250) 384-7125 to notify the school of a student absence. Students are responsible for any missed work on days absent from school. **Reminder:** Students arriving late to school must check in either with their teacher or at the office. We encourage all students to be on time as we look forward to them being a part of all learning activities.



Photo Day – Friday, September 18 (morning only)

SAVE THE DATE!- Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

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 see what the Rockheights PAC has been up to - the first meeting is on Tuesday, September 15th (format specifics to follow). The PAC is incredibly important so that families are aware, and able to give feedback on, the many events and activities here at Rockheights. We hope you will be able to join us.

A Few Important Dates for September

<u>Tuesday, Sep. 8</u>	School reopens (9:30-11:30 only)
<u>Tuesday, Sep. 15</u>	First PAC meeting in the LLC
<u>Friday, Sep. 18</u>	School Photo Day (morning only)
<u>Friday, Sep. 18</u>	Terry Fox Run (toonies for Terry)
<u>Monday, Sep. 21</u>	Professional Development Day (No School for students)
<u>Thursday, Sep. 24</u>	Meet the Teacher Night and Welcome Back BBQ
<u>Friday, Sep. 25</u>	Deadline for returning Student Verification Forms
<u>Tuesday, Sep. 29</u>	Orange Shirt Day at Rockheights (please wear orange)
<u>Wednesday Sept 30</u>	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (No School)



On behalf of all the staff at Rockheights, thank you for your continued support of our school, our community and our students.

We look forward to the year! If you have any questions, please contact us at 250-384-7125.

Sincerely,

Aaron Maxwell

Mr. Aaron Maxwell
Principal

Beth Richardson

Ms. Beth Richardson
Vice-Principal