

August 29, 2023

Dear Spencer Middle School Families,

I hope you are having a wonderful summer with your families. We have had several new registrations over the summer, so I'd like to take time to welcome back all our new and returning families to Spencer. I am thrilled to be returning as the Principal of Spencer, and to work with a wonderful team of adults who support your children.

Our website is a valuable source of information and is updated regularly. Please visit it to find important information related to school start-up, school supply lists, and other information (e.g. consents). I encourage you to bookmark our website for easy access: <https://spencer.web.sd62.bc.ca/>.

Our staff have a school planning day this Thursday, so our office will be closed for walk-ins. Please call and leave a message or email our general inquiries line if you have any pressing concerns or questions: [spencermiddleschool@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:spencermiddleschool@sd62.bc.ca)

**Here are details about September start-up next week:**

**Staggered Entry**

- Tuesday, September 5 – **Grade 6s only attend 8:50 – 10:50 am (buses available in the morning, but not to return home at 10:50, so please make other arrangements).**
  - All staff will be outside to greet students and will direct students to a line on the side field. Students will line-up and will be greeted by their homeroom teacher. Their teacher will walk them to class at 8:50. Minimal supplies are needed (pen/pencil, paper). Thank you to the PAC who will also have a Welcome Table set-up for incoming Grade 6 families.
  
- Wednesday, September 6 – **Grade 7s only attend 8:50 – 10:50 am (buses available in the morning, but not to return home at 10:50, so please make other arrangements).**
  - All staff will be outside to greet students and will direct students to a line on the side field. Students will line-up and will be greeted by their homeroom teacher. Their teacher will walk them to class at 8:50. Minimal supplies are needed (pen/pencil, paper).
  
- Wednesday, September 6 – **Grade 8s only attend 12:51 – 2:51 pm (no bus to get to school, but the buses are available to return students home at 2:51)**
  - All staff will be outside to greet students and will direct students to a line on the side field. Students will line-up and will be greeted by their homeroom teacher. Their teacher will walk them to class at 8:50. Minimal supplies are needed (pen/pencil, paper).

### Schedules and Class Placements

Please note, the process for class building and placement began last May and is a complicated process. It involves a lot of factors, such as peer groups and dynamics, learning styles and needs, class composition, numbers, etc. We gather input from teachers, support staff and parents at that time. We try to ensure our grade 6s are in class with students they know from their elementary schools and believe as students move up in grades they will have had the opportunity to make new friendships and be more comfortable at Spencer. Please note, we will not be accepting class change requests at this time. Having middle years children at home myself, I know how hard it may be for some students to see that they are not in class with their closest friends, however, it also offers them an opportunity to grow, develop and create new friendships. Thank you for understanding this process and understanding why we do not allow for class changes, unless we at the school need to make the change for operational purposes. Lastly, full student schedules are not reflected on MyEd yet and will be determined by the homeroom teacher. Students have only been scheduled into their homeroom/Exploratory or Band/PHE and sometimes French, depending on whether the homeroom teacher or partner teacher is their languages teacher. For more information about what exploratories/ADSTs or our bell schedule, please view our [website](#).

### Spencer Admin Team

- Jen Nixon (Principal)
- Laura Lancaster (Vice Principal, Students with last names from M-Z)
- Rob McAllister (Vice Principal, Students with last names from A-L)

### Student Info Package

During the first week, we will send home a paper-based welcome letter and student verification sheets. Please keep an eye out for these as there are important documents for you to complete both on paper and online at the [SD62 Online Consent page](#). My communications this year will be done through email, so it is important that we have the correct information for you.

Finally, we have updated our **Student and Parent Handbook** for 2023-24 and have attached it to this email. It is full of information about our school values, practices and policies. It will be uploaded to the *Students Section* of our website soon. Please read it over with your child before the school year starts.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or ideas please reach out. I look forward welcoming you to or back to Spencer Middle School soon!

Sincerely,  
Jen Nixon  
Principal

Thank you Hych'ka / HÍSWKE Kleco Kleco / ʔékoo ʔékoo! Gilakas'la Marsee Merci