

Updated August 2024

HMS Student & Family Information Guide for 2024 -2025 School Year



Welcome students and families of École H.S. Grenda Middle School!

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year! We hope that you had a safe, fun, and restful summer. Our staff is looking forward to welcoming our new and returning students to École H.S. Grenda Middle School. It will be so exciting to see everyone's faces again and make some new friends. We have wonderful students, a dedicated staff, and very supportive families. We are so glad that you all are joining us for a great year of connection and learning.

This year, students and families will notice some new faces among our staff. Our team is tremendous. We thank all staff for their fantastic efforts in providing a connected, caring, and safe learning environment for all students.

We hope this information guide will help provide you with important information that you can refer to as we approach September. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us via email if you have any questions and/or concerns. Mme Tonia MacGregor can be reached at tonia.macgregor@sd23.bc.ca and Mr. Rob Aviani can be reached at rob.aviani@sd23.bc.ca.

All the best,

Mme Tonia MacGregor and Mr. Rob Aviani

We acknowledge that we are learning together on the unceded Traditional territory of the Okanagan, Syilx, people.



What to Expect on the First Day



On **Tuesday, September 3rd** we will welcome all of our learners to HMS. School officially starts at 9:00 am. The first day is a half day, with an early release at 12:00pm. If your child is registered for our School District transportation and you have a confirmed seat, your child will be able to arrive and depart school using this transportation. Please make sure you have your child bring their backpack, a filled water bottle, and a substantial snack that will sustain them throughout the morning. Additionally, it would be helpful if learners also brought a pencil and/or pen and something to write on.

- **School Supplies:** A suggested list of supplies is on our website under our “PARENT” tab. Further information about what supplies your child will need will be provided by their classroom teachers.
- **Parking:** Our parking lot is a busy place, especially after school. Having only 48 parking stalls and 65+ staff, unfortunately there will not be any parking for families in the lot except for the one accessible stall. If you are dropping off your learner we strongly encourage you to consider dropping off your child at Swalwell park and have them use the crosswalk to safely arrive at school.

To accommodate our buses in a safe manner, the lot will be closed to parents/caregivers until the buses have left the property (this is typically at 3:25).

When using the school parking lot, parents/guardians are asked to enter through the NORTH entrance off of Konschuh Rd. Please stay right, pass the three bus shelters, and pull up to the marked drop off area. We ask that students exit on the right side of vehicles for safety reasons.
- **Where to go:** All students will be welcomed through our main entrance and will report to their classroom community. **Grade 6 students will gather in the gymnasium** for a quick introductory assembly and then head up to their community. During the summer, Grade 6 students were provided with a letter sharing with them their community placement. Additionally, when students attend the Student Orientation, they will be shown the location of their community.
- **Welcome Centre:** The welcome centre will be open and available to support all learners and families with any questions and/or concerns that may arise. To help with the business of each school day, we ask that all families communicate any changes to their learners day (late arrivals, early departures, etc.) through School Messenger.
- **Learning Support:** All of our non-enrolling staff will be available to support our learners in settling into their classroom communities on the first day of school. Families with learners with support from our Resource Teacher will be contacted to set up learner specific plans.
- **Class placements:** We have worked closely with each of the teams at our Elementary feeder schools to determine supportive class placements for each of the learners. Welcome emails have been sent out to all of our feeder school students, and placements have now been finalized. We will not be making changes to student placements unless there are extenuating circumstances as we simply don't have the space.

Getting Ready For Startup

For the 2024-25 school year, HMS will have approximately 500 students in four learning communities supported by 25 teachers. We also have eight non-enrolling teachers as well as 17 support staff. The HMS support staff have been working hard to prepare for a smooth school startup. The district operations staff have refinished our gym floor. Our custodial staff, Ms. Herty, Ms. Blanchette, Ms. Roberta, Mr. Korol, and Mr. Snow, have been busy getting the school ready for student learning. Our admin assistants, Mrs. Walraven, Mrs. Pollington, and Ms. Dickinson, have been supporting staff, students, and families through their work in the office. Also, our PAC president Stephanie Lawton is meeting with us this week to prepare for the upcoming school year. Thank you to everyone for their support.

Grenda Greeting Day - Aug. 29 - 9:30-11:00

Students are invited to attend our Grenda Greeting Day Orientation. They will have an opportunity to see their community space, meet other new HMS learners, and ask questions about the upcoming year. Please note that the school's gym floor is being refinished, so please have your child go to the Learning Stairs at the front of the school and be ready for a 9:30 am start. All families are asked to drop off their children in the school parking lot using our drop off lane (staff will be out directing traffic) as parking will be limited in the school lot. Parents are encouraged to enjoy some found-time to run some errands or go enjoy a coffee with friends before the 11:00 am pickup.



The main purpose of this event is to help support the transition for all new learners to our school community. There will be a number of staff on site, and numerous events for the learners to participate in. We can't wait to welcome all of our new learners!

"Parents and families are always welcome at HMS" - How To Get Involved

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). PAC is the acronym for the Parents' Advisory Council. Each parent/caregiver at École H.S. Grenda Middle School is a member of the HMS PAC. PAC offers a great way for parents/caregivers to be involved with the school, their children, and the student body. The PAC helps the school with a variety of activities, volunteer opportunities and input.

We encourage everyone to attend monthly meetings to get up to date information on what is happening around the school and give input on how PAC funds are spent. Watch the [school calendar](#) and HMS Weekly Parent Newsletter for upcoming meeting dates.



Volunteer. Many parents have expressed interest in volunteering at our school. All volunteers must have a criminal record check completed through our school district. The process is free and criminal record check forms are available at the school office. A successful criminal record check is valid for four years. Please note that criminal record checks that are offered for a fee on various websites are not accepted by the school district, and neither are criminal record checks done for other organizations. If you have had a previous criminal record check and want to see if it is still valid, or have any questions, you are encouraged to contact the school office.

Be Connected

At HMS, we are committed to ensuring that communication with families is a priority. Here are the main communication tools that we will leverage to share important information.



Email. Please be sure to add hms@sd23.bc.ca to your safe senders list. Don't let important emails and newsletter from the school end up in your spam, junk, or promotions email folders.

HMS Weekly Parent Newsletter. Each week a weekly memo will be shared with families via school messenger email. This “Parent Newsletter” will share important information for the week as well as upcoming important dates. Please ensure you are signed up for School Messenger so you receive this important communication. Additionally, “learning snapshots” will be shared to provide parents with insights into our learning communities.



HMS Website. Our school website can be found at <https://hms.sd23.bc.ca/>. The website contains the latest information on topics including important dates, PAC information, staff contact information, and more.

Teacher Communication. Our teachers may use Google Classroom, or another similar tool to document your child’s learning. We will endeavor to ensure that our families are well supported and confident in using these platforms.



Google Classroom

USING SCHOOLMESSENGER SAFE ARRIVAL FOR ABSENCE REPORTING

Please note that our new Absence Reporting System through SchoolMessenger is our sole absence reporting system for school attendance. Families have three options on how they can report an absence, late, or early departure:

1. Use the SchoolMessenger App on your smartphone. This method is by far the easiest way to report your child’s absence. (Follow this link for instructions on how to sign up and get started (<http://bit.ly/2FrTa0p>).
2. Use the SchoolMessenger Parent Portal at go.schoolmessenger.ca
3. Phone the school and push "1" to report using the SchoolMessenger automated system

Visit <http://www.sd23.bc.ca/SchoolMessenger> for family resources to help you get started with SchoolMessenger.

SchoolMessenger

The Central Okanagan School District's Financial Hardship Clause

Within Board Regulation 425R - Student Fees (see www.sd23.bc.ca), the Board of Education has indicated "that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship." Clause 8.5 in the Regulations states: "Principals are directed to establish a procedure in each school which will allow for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individuals, students and families. Such procedures will preserve the dignity of families who may be unable to pay." Please contact Rob Aviani if you are facing a financial hardship that may restrict the ability of your child to access a school program.

School Code of Conduct

At École H.S. Grenda Middle School, we want to help our students develop into socially responsible citizens. We value working with families in teaching appropriate, acceptable behaviour. By working together we can ensure positive student conduct. A positive behaviour plan is essential in building accountability, responsibility, respect for others, and most important, for the students’ self-esteem. We recognize that each learner and situation is unique and we will always strive to ensure that our school is a safe, caring, and orderly environment in which to learn and work. As learners age and mature, the expectations for behaviour change accordingly.

Our school [Code of Conduct](#) is on our school website under the “ABOUT” tab. This Code of Conduct applies to any student:

- who is on school property;
- who is at any school-sponsored activity;
- whose conduct at any time or place, including to and from school, and/or online behavior, has an impact on the safe, caring, or orderly environment of the school and/or student learning.

The Code of Conduct contains detailed information regarding the topics listed below. We encourage all families alongside their children to take the time to read through the school Code of Conduct before the year begins.

Code of Conduct

École H.S. Grenda Middle School

CODE OF CONDUCT (JUNE 2021)

At École H.S. Grenda Middle School, we recognize that each learner and situation is unique and we will always strive to ensure that our school is a safe, caring, and orderly environment in which to learn and work. As learners age and mature, the expectations for behaviour change accordingly.

WHO DOES THIS CODE OF CONDUCT APPLY TO?

In reference to Board Policy 401, 450, 450R, 452, 455, 445R, and 486 the purpose of the Code of Conduct at HMS is to maintain a safe, caring, and orderly environment for all learners and their learning. This code of conduct applies to all learners:

- On school property
- In attendance at any school-sponsored activity
- Whose behaviour at any time or place, including to and from school as well as online, has a negative impact on the school environment and/or learning

The Central Okanagan School District's Appeals Process. Board Policy 460 - Appeals states that, "A student or a parent of a student who is entitled to an educational program in Central Okanagan Public Schools may appeal a decision of an employee of the Board of Education which significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student." For a complete description of the Appeals Policy, along with the recommended steps to follow in attempting to solve a problem, please refer to Policy 460 - Appeals, that can be accessed from the 'Policies' link under the Board of Education heading on the School District homepage (<http://www.sd23.bc.ca/>).

Cells Phones. The Ministry of Education and Child Care has [new requirements](#) regarding the restricted use of cell phones and personal digital devices in all schools and at all levels. As a result, our school district has updated restrictions for cell phones and personal digital devices (see next page). Our [school code of conduct](#) has been revised to reflect the Ministry’s new requirements and the District’s updated restrictions.



HMS is fortunate in that these changes already align with our existing policies of cell phone use. However, in order to better support this Ministry directive, we will be asking that once students arrive at school, personal digital devices, including cell phones, **are not used and put away**. The devices are to be secured, powered off, and stored in their locker during instructional time (i.e. class time) and non-instructional time (i.e. breaks/lunch). Personal digital devices can only be used at HMS for instructional purposes and under direction from school staff. If parents need to get a message to their child during the day, please call the office. There is also a phone in the office for students to use during breaks. Thank you in advance for your support.

Central Okanagan Public Schools

Updated Restrictions for Cell Phones and Personal Digital Devices.

In accordance with the new [requirements from the Ministry of Education and Child Care](#), schools across our district have updated their Student Code of Conduct to include the restricted use of cell phones and personal digital devices during school hours effective July 1, 2024.

The [School Code of Conduct](#) has been revised to reflect the new requirements regarding cell phone use in schools accordingly.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT SECTION

Responsible Student Use of Personal Digital Devices, School Technology, and District Network Services

Student use of personal digital devices (any device used to communicate and/or access the internet), school technology, and district networks at school is for educational purposes.

Students must abide by the school's Code of Conduct and procedures, as well as Central Okanagan Public Schools Policy 486: Student Use of Network Services and Digital Technologies.

Students will:

- Secure, power off and store personal digital devices during instructional (i.e. class time) and non-instructional time (i.e. breaks/lunch) at Middle schools unless instructed by the Principal or school staff;
- Use personal digital devices during instructional time for instructional purposes and digital literacy skills as instructed by the Principal or school staff;
- Ensure personal digital devices are not used in areas where privacy is expected, such as restrooms and change rooms;
- Be permitted to use personal digital devices to support accessibility, accommodations, medical and health needs;
- Always take precautions to ensure online safety, privacy, and security;
- Treat others with respect and kindness when using digital devices and district network services;
- Always use digital devices and district network services responsibly and with academic integrity.

Schools will ensure that all students have equitable and developmentally appropriate access to technology to meet curricular requirements. Students are not required to have their own personal digital device or cellphone at school.

The use of personal digital devices, school technology, and district networks is a privilege. Staff may revoke a student's access to devices because of inappropriate student conduct.

Violations of the school code of conduct could result in appropriate restorative processes or disciplinary actions including suspension and police intervention.

As part of our commitment to help our students develop digital citizenship, our educators will continue teaching our students how to use their personal digital devices and technology in a responsible and respectful way.

We ask that you support our staff and discuss these new restrictions with your child before the upcoming school year. If parents/caregivers need to contact their child during the school day, they should call the school office.

On a related note, the school is not responsible for lost, missing, or damaged personal digital devices that students choose to bring to school.

If you have questions or concerns, Mrs. Tonia MacGregor can be contacted at tonia.macgregor@sd23.bc.ca and Mr. Rob Aviani can be reached at rob.aviani@sd23.bc.ca.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What will my school schedule look like?** Below is a sample schedule of one of our communities (our school day is from 9:00 - 3:15). Each community has 200 minutes of exploratory courses each week, and 200 minutes of designated time in our school gymnasium. Wednesday afternoon from 12:35 - 2:15 students will participate in our Passion Exploration, and the remaining time will be scheduled by the community teachers to ensure that each of our learners are developing the curricular and core competencies of our BC Curriculum. Grade 8 students will be participating in an additional elective on Friday morning, where they will get a chance to be mixed with other grade 8 students from different communities.

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
9:00 - 9:13	13	Community Connection					
9:13 - 10:28	75						
10:28 - 10:33	5	5 min transition			5 min transition		
10:33 - 11:48	75			5 min transition		Grade 8 Elective	
LUNCH	47	Lunch (11:48 - 12:35) 47 min					
12:35 - 1:50	75			Passion 12:35 - 1:25			
1:50 - 2:00	10	1:50 PM - 2:00 PM	1:50 PM - 2:00 PM	1:25 - 2:15	1:50 PM - 2:00 PM		
2:00 - 3:15	75			2:15 - 2:25 PM		2:15 - 2:25 PM	

- 9:00 School Starts
 - 11:48 - 12:35 Lunch
 - 1:50 - 2:00 Afternoon Break (2:15 - 2:25 Wed/Fri)
 - 3:15 Dismissal
2. **What classes will I be taking?** Along with the core academic subjects (English, French, Math, Physical Health Education, Science, and Socials) learners will also have the opportunity to experience our exploratory classes. These include Music, Drama, Art, Foods, French and Outdoor Education. Through the exploratory classes, learners will get an opportunity to develop new skills and learn about their passion areas. These courses, along with our Passion Exploration block, will help students make wise decisions regarding their elective courses when transitioning to George Elliot.
3. **What is Passion Elective?** Starting in October, students (alongside an HMS staff member) will engage in a locally-developed elective program of their choice. This will provide each of our students with an opportunity to take a deep dive into an area of passion/interest and learn alongside teachers and community members. We will be reaching out to families and community members that can enrich the experience of our students and come alongside as learning partners. Learners will cycle through 2 different experiences that will each be approximately 12 weeks long.
4. **Do I get my own locker?** Absolutely! All of our learners will be assigned their locker and lock. Don't worry, your teachers will spend time with you ensuring you know where your locker is and how to open

and close it. If, for any reason, you forget or have difficulty, please just ask one of your teachers or come and visit our staff in the Welcome Centre. We would be happy to help!

5. **What kinds of clubs and extracurricular activities will be available?** HMS will have a number of clubs and sports teams that will be offered to the students throughout the year. Sports teams at the grade 6-8 level typically include volleyball, basketball, track and field, rugby, and cross-country running while many of our school clubs are based on student interest.
6. **Where can I eat my lunch?** The learners at HMS will be thrilled with the number of spaces that are available to them to gather with friends to enjoy their lunch. This may include the outside grounds, community maker spaces, or school cafe. We know our learners are looking forward to this increase in independence from Elementary School. We ask that there is no food on the carpeted areas.
7. **Who can I go to for support?** At HMS all of our staff will be available and willing to support our learners. That being said, our School Counsellor, Learning Assistant Teacher, Resource Teacher, Social Emotional Learning Teacher, Teacher Librarian, Administration Team, and our Welcome Centre staff are available and willing to help out all our learners whenever the need arises. Please do not hesitate to come and find one of us. We want to ensure that each of our learners has a wonderful time at HMS and is supported through their journey.
8. **How do I sign-up for the school bus?** For information regarding bussing, routes and rider eligibility please contact the Transportation Office at transportation@sd23.bc.ca or by phone at 250-870-5151.
9. **I would like to ride my bike/scooter/skateboard to school, where can I store it?** Yes, you absolutely can ride your bike/scooter/skateboard to school. We ask that once on property you walk your bike/scooter/skateboard to the secure location. Bikes and scooters can be locked outside on the designated rack and skateboards will fit in student lockers. Please note e-bikes, e-scooters, and other modes of transportation powered by electricity or other means are not permitted at HMS.
10. **Can I use my cell phone at school or another personal learning device?** The school district has introduced updated restrictions for cell phones and personal digital devices across all middle schools. When students arrive at school, personal digital devices, such as cell phones, are to be put away. At HMS and all other school district middle schools, personal digital devices, such as cell phones, are to be secured, powered off, and stored in their locker during instructional (i.e. class time) and non-instructional time (i.e. breaks/lunch) at HMS and all other school district middle schools.

Personal learning devices and cell phones may only be used during instructional time at the discretion of the classroom teacher. If at any point, learners' use interferes with or distracts the learner or learning of others or the safety and well-being of others, the school may intervene to align with our code of conduct. Please note that students are not required to have their own personal learning device or cellphone.
11. **Can I wear a hat?** Hats can be worn at HMS, but it is at the discretion of the individual classroom teacher whether or not they can be worn during class time. Teachers will ensure that their expectations are shared with their learners.

Accident Insurance

Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for student injuries that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. The Kids Plus Accident Insurance Program that was previously offered to our students was discontinued in 2019. The IA Financial Group now offers the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) which is a voluntary plan that provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. To apply for the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan or to find out more, click [HERE](#).

2024-25 HMS Staff

WELCOME CENTRE	CARE TAKING STAFF
Allexis Bass/Christy Dickinson ... (Attendance)	Michelle Harty ... Daytime Caretaker
Judy Pollington... (MyEd)	Lisa Blanchette ... Evening Caretaker
Brenda Walraven ... (Head Secretary)	Glenn Korol ... Evening Caretaker (4)
WATERFALL COMMUNITY TEACHERS	CREEK COMMUNITY TEACHERS
Irene Hayward	Drew Bonneteau
Ashley Folk	Nicole Goodwin
Lisa Tennant	Tyler Pentland
Ann-Katrine Giroux	Lisa Gross
Emma Leger	Kira Bulach (for Jackie Groat)
Rob Millar	
OCEAN COMMUNITY TEACHERS	LAKE COMMUNITY TEACHERS
Alyssa Bouchie	Jeryd Baines
Paul Kelly	Angela Caron
Ian Galbraith	Paige Miller
Jane Squair	Matt Olson
	Davis Proch
CEA SUPPORT STAFF	EXPLORATORY TEACHERS
Mauvreen Allan Deanne Cleveland	Taylor Bone ... Band/Drama/Music
Launa Campbell Courtney Holmes-Peters	Josh Dorf ... Principal Designate/Outdoor Education
Pamela Reszitnyk Mariza Rooz	Jennifer Johnson ... French Second Language/ Culture
Dusty Ohashi Catherine Scurrah	Sarah Hammond ... Foods
Chantal Screen	Emily Miles ... Art/Digital Art
Catherine Vissia	
LEARNING SUPPORT TEAM	
Kyla Bauche & Andrew Portwood... SEL Team	Michele Michaud... Resource Teacher
Bryn Coape-Arnold ... Learning Assistant Teacher & ELL	Richelle Wells ...Indigenous Advocate
Kim Ito ... Learning Assistant	Kelly Shin ... School Counselor
LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS	ADMINISTRATORS
Deena McDell... Teacher-Librarian	Tonia MacGregor
Marcia Rudolph... Library Assistant	Rob Aviani

Important Dates -

For the latest and most updated information and event dates, visit the [HMS calendar](#) can be found on the school website.

GREENDA GREETING DAY - Gr. 6 Welcome	Thursday, August 29
Schools Opens - Term 1 begins - Early dismissal @ 12:00pm	Tuesday, September 3
Community Assemblies (Introduce Passion) Ocean & Lake Waterfall & Creek	Wednesday, September 4 Block 2 Block 3
Exploratory Rotation 1 begins	Thursday, September 5
Welcome Back Assembly <i>Parent Appreciation Open House 3:15 - 4:45pm</i>	Wednesday, September 11
School Photo Day	Thursday, September 19
Terry Fox Run - 11:10	Wednesday, September 18
Passion Selection Open	Wednesday, September 18
Passion Selection Closes	Wednesday, September 25
Grade 8 Elective Round 1 begins	Friday, September 27
Truth & Reconciliation Week Orange Shirt Day	Monday - Friday Wednesday, September 25
National Day of Truth & Reconciliation (school closed)	Monday, September 30
Community Class Reviews	Wednesday, October 2 & 9
Administrative Implementation Day (no students)	Friday, October 11
Thanksgiving Day (school closed)	Monday, October 14
Passion Exploration Rotation 1 Begins	Wednesday, October 16
School Retakes	Monday, October 21
Learner Led Conferences - Early dismissal @ 1:00pm	Wednesday, October 23 Thursday, October 24
Teacher Professional Day (no students)	Friday, October 25
National Indigenous Veterans Day	Friday, November 8
Remembrance Day Assembly am	Friday, November 8
Remembrance Day (school closed)	Monday, November 11
Term 1 ends	Friday, November 29
Term 2 begins	Monday, December 2
Learning Updates due to office	Friday, December 6
Term 1 Learning Updates Go Home	Wednesday, December 18
School closes for Winter Vacation	Friday, December 20

Winter Vacation (school closed)	Monday, December 23 - Friday, January 3
School Reopens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 6
Passion Exploration Term 1 Ends	Wednesday, January 22
Grade 8 Elective Round 1 Ends	Friday, January 31
Passion Exploration Term 2 begins	Wednesday, February 5
Learner Led Conferences - Early dismissal 1:00pm	Wednesday, February 12 Thursday, February 13
Teacher Professional Day (no students)	Friday, February 14
Family Day (school closed)	Monday, February 17
Grade 8 Elective Round 2 begins	Friday, February 21
Term 2 ends	Friday, March 7
Term 3 begins	Monday, March 10
Term 2 Learning Updates due to office	Thursday, March 13
School closes for Spring Break	Friday, March 14
Spring Vacation	Monday, March 17 - Friday, March 28
School Reopens	Monday, March 31
Term 2 Learning Updates Home	Friday, April 4
Good Friday (school closed)	Friday, April 18
Easter Monday (school closed)	Monday, April 21
Victoria Day (school closed)	Monday, May 19
Passion Exploration Term 2 ends	Wednesday, May 28
Term 3 ends	Friday, June 13
Grade 8 Elective Round 2 ends	Friday, June 13
Learning Updates due to the office	Thursday, June 19
Celebrations of Learning	Monday, June 23 and Tuesday, June 24
Grenda Games	Wednesday, June 25
Last day of school for students - Final Report Cards home - Learners in session 9:00 - 10:00	Thursday, June 26
Administrative Day (no school for students)	Friday, June 27