

WELCOME TO ÉCOLE HS GRENDA MIDDLE

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

We are excited to welcome all our learners to their first day school on Tuesday, September 2nd. This first day is a half-day with school starting at 9:00am. Please ensure to bring a backpack, a large snack and water bottle. Additionally, it would be helpful for learners to come prepared with paper and a pencil or pen.

When you arrive at school, all Grade 6 students will gather in the gym for a quick welcome assembly and then head up to their community. During the summer, Grade 6 student families will be mailed a letter to share their community placement.

MAY 26TH OPEN HOUSE!

Join us on May 26th from 5:30-6:30 for our New Grade 6 Parent Information Evening. There will be School tours and an Admin Presentation along with coffee and treats!

2 GRENDA GREETING DAY

Grenda Greeting Day is on August 28th, 2025! This is a fun day where we get to welcome our new grade 6 students, participate in some fun activities, get to see our community classrooms and meet some new friends. More information about Grenda Greeting Day will be included in your August community placement email.

1 COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS

Welcome emails with community placement information will be sent out to all of our feeder school students in August, once placements are finalized. Many factors are considered when deciding out to best organize our learning communities, including recommendations for staff of our Elementary feeder schools. Please see the last page of this welcome guide to learn more about the community placement process.



3 WHAT DO I DO IF...?

What time does school start?

School starts at 9:00 a.m. but our first busses arrive shortly before 8:30 a.m. The school is open for students at this time. You should start moving to your first class BEFORE the bell rings at 9:00 a.m.

What do I do if I am late for school?

If you arrive late to school you must report to the Welcome Centre to sign in. You will be marked as an excused late if you have a note or if your parent has called the school.

What do I do if I am going to be absent from school?

Your parent or guardian is encouraged to use the SchoolMessenger SafeArrival app to report an absence. For more details, visit www.sd23.bc.ca/schoolmessenger/

What do I do if I have a doctor's appointment or have to leave school early?

Let your teacher know first. Your parent or guardian needs to phone the school or you need to have a note from home. Then, when it's time to leave, go to the office to sign out.

What do I do if I get sick when I am at school?

Ask your teacher if you can go to the office. Someone will contact your parent/guardian for you. If your parent/guardian is unavailable, you can wait in the sick room until they are contacted or you feel better.

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HMS SCHEDULE

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 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.

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 - 9:13	13	Community Connection				
9:13 - 10:28	75			Exploratory 50 min 10:03 - 10:53		
10:28 - 10:33	5	5 min transition			5 min transition	
10:33 - 11:48	75		Exploratory	5 min transition		5 minute Transition
LUNCH	47	Lunch (11:48 - 12:35) 47 min				
12:35 - 1:50	75	PHE		Passion 12:35 - 1:25	Exploratory	
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		PHE	2:15 - 2:25 PM		2:15 - 2:25 PM
	313					PHE



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HMS FAQ

How do I sign-up for the school bus? For information regarding bussing, routes and rider eligibility please visit <https://www.sd23.bc.ca/transportation-services-programsservices> or contact the Transportation Office at transportation@sd23.bc.ca or by phone at 250-870-5151.

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 café. 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.

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!

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.

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.

Can I use my cell phone at school or another personal learning device?

As directed by the BC Government, 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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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FOOD NEWS

Every Wednesday is Pizza Day at HMS. We also have a café that is open everyday at lunch that sells some small snacks and drinks. We are also fortunate to have a hot lunch program run by our HMS PAC. Look for upcoming information about when to order. Throughout the year we also have many fundraising opportunities like PACHOS, HOT DOGS, POPCORN and more.



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IMPORTANT DATES

Monday May 26th

- 9:30am
 - Grade 5 Feeder School Welcome, Tour and BBQ Lunch
- 5:30pm
 - Grade 5 Parent Information Session and Open House

Mid-August

- Welcome Letters and Community Placements sent to families

Thursday August 28th

- 9:30am
 - Grenda Greeting Day for all new incoming Grade 6 students

Tuesday September 2nd

- 9:00am
 - First Day of School ; early dismissal



LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU ALL SOON



HMS COMMUNITY PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

April 2025

As spring approaches, we are preparing to welcome our new grade 6 students to HMS. Over the next few weeks, we will be visiting each elementary feeder school so that we can get to know your children and share some information about HMS. In addition, we are excited to be hosting our New Grade 6 Parent Information Evening on May 26 from 5:30-6:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

We will soon be starting the process of placing our new students into one of our four mixed-grade learning communities: Ocean, Lake, Waterfall, and Creek. Our staff strives to provide each child with a comprehensive and equitable learning experience. We consider the following factors when deciding how the communities should best be organized:

- Community size and composition
- Learning styles and needs
- Gender balance
- Social groupings
- Student behaviour
- Recommendations of feeder school teachers and support staff

We also consider parent recommendations. Parent recommendations include information such as good learning partners, academic and social emotional needs, and other important information. Please keep in mind that only sound educational factors will be considered for community placement. We respectfully ask that parents avoid requests with specific communities or teachers; rather, it is more helpful to understand the learning environment that you feel is best for your child. If you have a placement recommendation for your child, please email me with that recommendation at rob.aviani@sd23.bc.ca before May 2, 2025. If you would like to discuss your recommendation with me, please feel free to call me at the school.

We typically re-assess our community organization after the August registration period as we become aware of any enrollment changes that have taken place over the summer months. In the best interests of all students, please be aware that placements are TENTATIVE and that community assignments will not be posted or confirmed before placements are emailed home in late August.

Due to many placement factors, as well as Ministry requirements, please understand that we cannot guarantee that we will be able to honour your recommendation. We will certainly consider each parent recommendation carefully.

If you have any questions about the community organization process, please do not hesitate to contact me at rob.aviani@sd23.bc.ca or 250-870-5124.

All the best,

Rob Aviani, Principal