



Matthew McNair Secondary School

Home of the Marlins

9500 No. 4 Road, Richmond, BC V7A 2Y9
Tel: 604-668-6575 Fax: 604-668-6585
Email: mcnair@sd38.bc.ca Website: <http://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca>

Principal's Message:

To Students & Parents:

I hope you are enjoying the summer holiday. On behalf of the entire Matthew McNair Secondary School staff, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning McNair students and their families.

McNair is an outstanding school with a very committed staff and a supportive and caring community. I am excited about the year ahead and know that every student will receive quality teaching and an opportunity for rich learning. McNair students also have a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities to participate in through the numerous clubs and athletic teams we offer. We encourage all students to become involved in our school community!

We believe in a strong partnership between the school, parents and students. We continue to update our McNair website at <https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/> which we hope you will find user friendly and informative. Please check our website on a regular basis and check on the subscribe link to receive all new website posts directly to your email.

This newsletter will provide you with valuable information about school start-up and important events taking place in September. Enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing all students again on September 3rd.

Michael Jaswal, Principal

Schedule for First Day (September 3rd, 2024)

10:00am ***Grade 8 Student Orientation Assembly & Homeroom***

11:00am ***Mini School Orientation Assembly***

11:30am ***Grade 9-10 Student Orientation Assembly & Homeroom***

1:00pm ***Grade 11-12 Student Orientation Assembly & Homeroom***

Gr. 9-12 students can expect the assembly and homeroom procedures to take approximately 30-45 minutes. Grade 8 students can expect their Gr. 8 welcoming activities to last approximately 1 hour. Students will be dismissed from their homeroom class to end their first day.

Students will attend a homeroom class each morning during the first week for the purpose of collecting various forms and fees. Students are asked to return their completed forms and pay for school fee online. We suggest that all students come prepared with something to write on and something to write with. Students do not need to bring a lunch with them on the first day of school.

Absent During the First Week?

Please note: If your child will be absent during the first week of school in September but intends to return to McNair, it is vital that the school be informed. Please complete the 'Late Return' form and submit this to the school office before September 3rd. The 'Late Return' form can be downloaded from the school website and is located under the 'Parents' tab. If we do not have a copy of this form and your child is absent on Sept. 3rd to 6th, your child will be withdrawn from our system and space at McNair cannot be guaranteed. This is a very important form.

Homeroom Assignments:

Homeroom lists will be posted on the windows near the front entrance of the school on Friday, August 30, 2024 at 5:00pm showing students' names, homeroom numbers and homeroom locations. New students are encouraged to check these lists prior to the first day of school so that they know their homeroom teacher and classroom location.

Home to School Communication:

Success in school requires an ongoing and supportive relationship between the student, the home and the school. We will do all we can to support your student in their learning; however, it is important for parents/guardians to stay actively involved in their teen's education. Parents are encouraged to check the website, read the email notices, attend information nights or perhaps consider joining our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) or Dry After Grad (DAG) groups.

Every weekend, a 'Week-at-a-Glance (WAAG)' newsletter will be created specifically for parents to highlight important information, news, and upcoming events. This WAAG will be emailed home to parents who have provided us with their email address and have given us consent to receive electronic communication from the school. The Parent WAAG will also be posted on the school website. Parents are encouraged to read this WAAG to remain informed about school events and important dates.

It is also recommended that parents visit the McNair website at <https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/> and click on the "SUBSCRIBE" button. This will enable you to automatically receive an email every time a new item is posted on the school website.

McNair School Calendar:

The school calendar is available on McNair website at <https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/> The calendar contains all the important dates for the school year. We encourage all families to post this calendar in your home and refer to it on a regular basis.

Consent to Receive Electronic Communication:

Our goal is to provide ongoing communication throughout the year by email. Therefore, it is very important that we collect parent email addresses for every student in the school. If you are a new family to McNair or if you did not receive our electronic communication last year, please ensure that you contact the McNair office to provide us with your email address.

Student Agenda:

All students will receive student agendas. We recommend both students and parents read through the McNair Code of Conduct and school rules and policies. We strongly encourage all students to use the digital agenda daily throughout the year to record homework, upcoming due dates, marks and all other important responsibilities.

Student Counsellors:

The counsellors are available during the last week of August to register new students and to address some student course selection errors. New students to McNair who have not yet selected courses should phone the school office to make an appointment to meet with their counsellor. Returning students who have an error in their course confirmation sheet should visit the McNair website and complete the Course Confirmation Error Report. This form will be available and sent to students and families on Tuesday, August 29 – counsellors will not be meeting with returning students during this last week of August.

Student Timetables:

All students will receive their timetables on Tuesday August 27th.

Students who have an error in their Timetables must visit the McNair website and complete the Course Change Request Form— counsellors will not be meeting with returning students during this last week of August.

Our current timetable was constructed based on enrolment and course selections from March 2024. We worked with students between April –June to make any requested course changes. We will do our very best to accommodate any changes that are required. Changes due Summer School, missing course request and students with incomplete timetables will take priority. Course changes preferences and balancing will be done during the week on September 9-13th and will only be accommodate if space allows.

Staff Update:

We would like to welcome back some returning staff members and introduce some new staff members who will be joining the McNair teaching staff:

- Gomes, Michael - SS, PHE, CLE, ELL
- Miller, Rachel - Resource
- McCallum, Neill - Science/Math
- Fujita, Lala - Resource
- Riding, Paige - English/ELL
- Yang, Jason - Resource
- Yip, Phoebe - Counselling - Job share with Devina
- Wolfe, Michael - Returning from Leave

Lockers:



Students will be moving from classroom to classroom during the day and will need a place to store their books, coats, gym clothing and other belongings. All students need to bring their own lock with them to place on their assigned locker or purchase a lock from the school. Grade 8 students will be assigned a locker, all other students can select their Lockers on the first day of school in homeroom class. It is a good idea for parents of grade 8 students to practice opening a combination lock as this reduces anxiety on the first day.

Lockers must be locked to ensure belongings are secure. Students are advised not to share their lock combination with anyone. Although every precaution is taken, sometimes lockers can be broken into. **We ask students not to bring valuables to school.** All lockers are school property and, therefore, we reserve the right to check them if deemed necessary.

What Supplies Do I Need?

Individual course teachers will inform students of required supplies during the first week of school. Students should come prepared with a binder, paper and pens/pencils on the first day of school.

Student Photographs:

Student photographs will be taken on Wednesday, September 25th. Students who miss the first photo date, or who need retakes, will be able to have their photo taken on Wednesday, October 23rd. All students' need to have a photo taken to be used for the students ID Go-Card and Yearbook. Families may wish to purchase photo packages directly from the photographers (Artona Group). Formal grad photos will also be taken in January 19th to 24th. Gr. 12's will need to book their formal grad photo sitting appointment online.

Yearbook Memories Last a Lifetime!

The McNair 2024-2025 yearbook captures this year's events and experiences. Remember all the friends, trends, fashion, fun, teachers, classes, teams, games, music, art, dances and everything in-between. Students may purchase a yearbook for \$50.00 which is included as an option on the fee statement.

Medical & Media Release Forms

The school requires an updated medical card for each student. Blank forms will be sent home in the first week of school and we must have them fully completed and returned promptly. These medical forms are invaluable in the event of an emergency at the school. Students will also receive a Media Release form that needs to be signed and returned in order for us to be able to include the student's name and/or photo in the yearbook and newsletters.

School Fees:



All secondary schools in Richmond have a standard school fee. This fee covers the cost of a student agenda, locker use, communication fee and some student activity costs. The General School Fee for all students is \$28.00. There are optional and additional activity and enrichment program costs. For instance, the Yearbook may be purchased for \$50.00. Grade 12 students will have optional costs for the Graduation and Valedictory Ceremony, Grad Boat Cruise, Dinner and Dance and Dry Grad. Each student should receive an itemized fee statement, please go to Cash Online to see the statement.

Drop-off and Pick-up of Students:



We encourage students to walk or cycle to school as often as possible. Not only is this the healthy and environmentally friendly alternative, it also reduces traffic congestion around the school each morning and afternoon. If you are driving to school, please note that the school parking lot can get busy from 8:05-8:40 a.m., so please plan accordingly to ensure your child is not late. Also, please drive slowly and carefully and follow the entrance and exit signs.

Bus Service from Hamilton

Reminder to parents that there will be no bus service on the first day of school, September 3, 2024. Bus service for regular student begins Wednesday September 4, 2024. Please review the bus schedule that was sent directly to each family for pick-up and drop off schedule.

Lunches at McNair

Lunch at McNair is from 1:05pm - 1:45pm on Monday to Friday, and from 1:20pm – 1:55pm on collaboration days. Students may go home for lunch or may have lunch in the school rotunda or outdoors. Cafeteria services at McNair are open in morning, break and at Lunch. The cafeteria offers breakfast, lunch and snack items. All food and beverage offerings provided meet the provincially mandated guidelines for food and beverage sales in schools.

McNair Parent Advisory Council:

Parent involvement and support at school makes a significant positive difference to student success. We hope that parents will become part of the school's many events and activities. All parents are members of the McNair PAC, and we encourage all parents, especially those with children entering grade 8, to attend the PAC meetings throughout the year to meet other parents, find out more about the changes to education in BC and other interesting topics. The PAC group provides valuable feedback to the principal on school issues, plans and hosts some special events, and applies for and distributes BC gaming funds.

Meet the Teachers – Thursday, September 19, 2024

Meet the Teacher Evening is a time to meet all of your child's teachers and to hear information about their courses. The Administration will address the parents at 6:30pm and then from 7:00pm – 8:00pm parents will follow their child's timetable and have an opportunity to formally "Meet the Teacher" for each subject to find out what they will be learning and course expectations. The presentation to parents at 6:30pm provides an overview of our school story. The partnership between the student, home and school is a key to success and we hope all parents/guardians attend the 'Meet the Teacher' evening.