

Dear Albert McMahon Community:

I hope you have all had a relaxing and safe summer. As we near the start of a new school year I would like to acknowledge the amazing work our community did last year. Staff at AME would like to thank parents and caregivers for trusting our ability to keep your kiddos safe. As a school community we also had a mid-year change in leadership, as well as some changes in key staff assignments. Our community handled these changes with grace, and our kiddos did extremely well in what must have been one of the most difficult school years in recent memory. With that said, we are all certainly glad last year is behind us! So here we are, a new year and new beginnings! AME staff are really looking forward to this new school year and we can't wait to see the smiling faces of all our young learners!

-New Staff-

I would like to take a moment introduce our new staff members joining us in September. Ms. Zimmerman will be joining us this year as our new Vice Principal and Gr. 5 teacher. Ms. O'Soup will be joining us this year as our Indigenous Liaison. Ms. Abbott will be joining us this year as our new ISP teacher. Ms. Tench will be joining us this year as our Gr. 5 teacher in the portable. Ms. Rowley and Ms. Webster will be joining us in a job share for one of our Grade 4 classes. Ms. Michaud will be returning to AME this year to teach Grade 4. Ms. Roste will be joining us this year in one of our Grade 1 classrooms. Ms. Arndt will be joining us this year as a job share partner in with Ms. Paul in Kindergarten. We are welcoming three new EAs to our team: Ms. Smith, Ms. Webster, and Ms. Billesberger. Please note, we are still in the process of hiring our new K/1 teacher, VP/Prep relief teacher and two additional EAs.

-Office Hours-

Our office officially opens on August 30th, from 8:00-3:00pm each day. If you have any questions or concerns, you can connect via phone, email or by booking an in-person visit (just call the school to book an appointment). If you do visit the school in person, please remember to wear a mask and sign in at the front desk. As well, visitors may not enter the building if they are experiencing any Covid-19 related symptoms, or have been asked to quarantine or isolate due to travel or being a close contact of someone with Covid-19.

-Changes to our Health and Safety Measures-

Our updated K-12 Health Guidelines can be found at:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf

Some Important Considerations:

- The mask mandate will remain the same as it was at the end of last school year. All staff and students in Gr.4-6 are required to wear masks in the building at all times. Mask wearing remains optional for students in K-3. Please keep in mind that there are still mask exemptions for Gr. 4-6 students. These will be communicated to parents next week.
- Morning health checks for staff and students will still be required each day. Anyone presenting with flu or cold-like symptoms will be required to stay home and follow medical advice.
- Cohorts are no longer recommended by our Provincial Health Officer and will not be used.
- Extracurricular activities are allowed this year.
- Food programs are allowed to continue this year.

More health and safety information will be communicated next week when our District health and safety measures are finalized and made public.

-Overview of our First Week Back-

Our students will return to their old classrooms between September 7th and 9th.
The first day of school, September 7th will begin at 8:30am and finish at 11:00am.
 September 8th will be our first full day of school (see new bell schedule in next section).

September 7-9:

- **Returning Students, Gr. 1-6:** These students will go back to their physical classrooms that they attended last year. They will line up in the morning and be released in the afternoon at their old classroom doors.
- **New Students, Primary (Gr. 1-3):** Students will line up and be released at our library entrance.
- **New Students, Intermediate (Gr. 4-6):** Students will line up outside Division 2.
- **New Kindergarten Students:** Gradual entry programs were communicated to parents in the spring of 2021 and will be emailed to parents in a separate letter.

Signs will be located at the front of the school to direct new families to the library and Division 2 entrance doors.

September 10th and Beyond:

- Students will begin in their new classrooms on Friday, September 10th. Class placements will be emailed to families Thursday evening. Students will line up in the morning and be released in the afternoon from their new classroom doors. A map of the school will be provided when class placements are emailed to families on the Thursday evening.

-Bell Schedule-

Please note, we are not doing staggered entry in the morning or staggered pick-up in the afternoon this year. All students will need to follow our bell schedule below.

Warning Bell: 8:25

Students Enter Building: 8:30

Recess: 10:00-10:15

Lunch: 11:45-12:30

End of Day: 2:23

-School Supplies-

A list of generic school supplies by grade were provided in report card envelopes at the end of last year. For new families, it can be found at:

<https://albertmcmahon.mpsd.ca/Parents/Supplies/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

Please note that K-1 students will pay a school supply fee at the beginning of year instead of parents making the purchases themselves.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. Further communication will be emailed to parents in the week of August 30th to September 3rd.

All the best,

Shane Sliziak , AME Principal