



École Intermédiaire Shuswap Middle School

171 – 30th Street SE Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4P2
Tel 250-832-6031 Email sms@sd83.bc.ca

September 9, 2026

Hello Shuswap Middle School Students and Families!

Welcome to SMS for the 2026-2027 school year! This year looks a little different from SMS of the past as we don't have any English track grade 6 students. We have English 7 and 8 as well as French Immersion 6, 7 and 8. This means our school is a little smaller than we are used to... we think we will have about 470 students instead of over 600.

Teachers have been working over the past week or two to get their classrooms ready for a great year of learning. Our school looks bright and shiny inside as the operations team spent two full weeks cleaning and polishing. It looks amazing!

A big welcome to all our new Grade 6 students, our returning Grade 7s, and Grade 8s, and to every student who is new to us. Our school has a wonderful environment for learning, in and out of the classroom. There are many different kinds of opportunities open to students, including academics, athletics, fine arts and more. Listen carefully to announcements and don't be afraid to try new things. You might find a hidden talent that you didn't know you had, or you might just find you have a whole lot of fun learning new things. You don't have to be good at something to enjoy it!

Best wishes to all our students for a successful school year.

Yours truly,

Ms. Edgell, Principal
Mrs. Leroux, Vice Principal

Communication

We truly value the partnership that we have with families as we work together to make each year the very best for students. Having great communication with families is a critical part of this. The more we talk and work together, the better we will be able to support your child. Please reach out to your child's teacher early on and start building that relationship. We are always happy to have discussions and answer any questions that you might have.

There are a number of ways that you can stay informed on what is happening at SMS in general. We try to send newsletters out by email- usually in the first week of each month. Please visit our website and our Facebook page for regular updates.

School Website <https://sms.sd83.bc.ca/>



Facebook www.facebook.com/Shuswapmiddleschool If you "like" our Facebook page, you will get updated information.

Welcome back dessert night/open house

Please join us for a welcome back open house on Wednesday September 23 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This is a great chance to meet many of the staff and have your child tour you around to see all the highlights of our school.

Student and Parent Handbook

For more information please see the student and parent handbook that was emailed home at the end of August.

Absences

If your child is going to be away from school, please call the office prior to the start of school at 8:20 a.m. The office can be reached at 250-832-6031. If you call outside of office hours please leave a message. Thank you!

Student cell phone and electronics policy

In accordance with the provincial Ministry of Education and Child Care mandate, cell phones and other electronic devices will not be permitted at any time during the school day, including on a student's person, without the expressed permission of teachers for educational purposes. Devices must be secured in lockers or classroom storage areas. It is important to note that this year School District 83 policy is that students in elementary and middle schools will not have access to WiFi on their personal devices. Of course, they still have access to WiFi using school chromebooks provided permission is given from parents using the form described below. If parents need to get an important message to their child, please call the office and we will be happy to make that connection happen. It is amazing the difference in both learning and social environments when cell phones are away.

Action Required - Important Permission Forms (SD #83)

There are quite a few forms which need parent approval each school year. These forms include giving permission for student use of computers at school, walking field trip permission for short educational trips and much more. Please complete these forms prior to **Friday, September 18** using Parent Connect. Instructions are as follows:

1. Go to www.sd83.bc.ca
2. Go to Parent Resources drop down menu, or go to www.parentconnect.sd83.bc.ca
3. Access your account by entering the email address we have on file for you at the school. If you need to update your email, please call our office staff at 250-832-6031 and they can enter your email into the system.
4. If you have more than one child, you will have to request a password for each child. Once you have done this, you can change the passwords so that they are the same and all of your children's names come up under one email.

For more detailed instructions, watch a video on "Using Parent Connect", found on the Parent Connect Sign-In screen.

Please click and respond to each of the forms below. To view the form, click on the "Click here to view form" box.

IMPORTANT - As you review and update each form, **please select the appropriate response on Parent Connect and CLICK SAVE** (located near top right of page).

Please ensure you respond to each of the following:

- District Cloud Services Consent
- Parent Personal Information Consent
- Student Personal Information Consent
- Parent Outside Media Consent
- Student Outside Media Consent
- Walking Parent Permission
- New Bussing Code of Conduct

It is mandatory that all forms be reviewed and responded to by parent/guardians.

School Verification Forms

Your child will bring home a form on bright orange coloured paper. This is a super important form as it contains all of the contact information we have for your child. Please carefully check your home address, email addresses and phone numbers to ensure that everything is correct. Return the form to your child's teacher as soon as possible so that we can update our records. Thank you!

School Fees

We request a Student School Fee of **\$40** for all students. This fee includes the Cultural, Activity, and Agenda fees. Fees can be paid with cash or cheque as well as e-transfer to sms@sd83.bc.ca. **The memo in the e-transfer MUST include student name, teacher name, and what the fee is for.** This is very important as we have hundreds of e-transfers sent to us.

If this optional fee causes you financial hardship, please call or email a confidential note to the principal at vedgell@sd83.bc.ca. We appreciate your attention to these fees and payment as soon as possible or by September 30, 2026.

Hot lunch

This year Shuswap Food Action will be providing the opportunity for hot lunches to be purchased five days per week. Please watch our website for information about ordering hot lunches coming soon!

Yearbooks

Yearbook pre-orders will begin this fall at a cost of \$45 each. All pre-orders go through the Jostens website only. The school does not take orders or money for the yearbooks. Yearbooks must be pre-ordered in order to receive one. More information regarding when pre-orders begin and when they close will be sent to families, posted on the SMS website, and announced at school for students.

Traffic Flow

Shuswap Middle is a very busy place during drop off and pick up times – Please be super cautious and expect the unexpected! Students must be dropped off and picked up in the lower parking lot or Little Mountain Sports Complex parking lot across the street (There is a crossing guard there in the mornings and afternoons). The upper parking lot is closed to the public during peak drop off and pick up times. Please help us keep students and staff safe.

Early Student Departures

Students leaving, for any reason, before the end of the instructional day: Parents/guardians please advise the school (call or email) **before** departure and wait outside for your child to be dismissed safely by the school. **The office must have parent/guardian permission to release a student.**



Parent Advisory Council

Your Shuswap Middle School PAC performs an important role in providing ongoing feedback and communications between parents and staff. All parents and guardians are members of the PAC and are invited to attend the SMS PAC meetings and events. PAC also supports the school in a variety of other ways such as fundraising and the administration of Gaming Funds to the benefit of the school. Your participation is a great way to be involved and to stay informed.

We have a number of openings on our PAC executive this year as parents are moving on as their children aged out of SMS. Don't be scared off though, you don't need to take on an executive position- there is a place for everyone on the PAC. Come and check it out at the first meeting scheduled for Monday September 28 at 6:00 in the SMS Library. We hope to see you there!



September 21	Pro-D Day: no school for students
September 23	Dessert night/Open house 5:30-6:30 p.m.
September 24	School photo day
September 28	PAC meeting 6:00 SMS library
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: No school for staff or students
October 12	Thanksgiving: No school for staff or students
October 20	Photo Retake day
October 23	Provincial Pro D Day: no school for students
October 26	Parent/Teacher/Student conferences: students do not attend classes other than their scheduled time



Attention to Attendance!

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's social and academic development. Even as children grow more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school and understand how attendance benefits their health and success in school and beyond.



Did you know the research shows?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence (missing 10%, or 2 days each month) is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.



What you can do to support school attendance?



Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the opportunities available when your teen or preteen shows up to school every day.
- Help your middle and high schooler maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting enough sleep.
- Consider limiting use of devices if they interfere with sleep.
- Try not to schedule nonurgent medical appointments during the school day.
- Help your child(ren) to stay healthy.
- If your child(ren) must stay home because they are sick, ensure they have asked teachers for materials to make up for the missing learning time in the classroom.



Help your child stay engaged

- Find out if your child(ren) feel engaged by their classes and whether they feel safe.
- Make sure your child(ren) are not missing class because of challenges with behaviour issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your child's academic progress and seek help from teachers, school counsellors, or tutors when necessary.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your child to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- If you notice signs of anxiety, support your middle and secondary students, and if needed, seek advice from your school or health-care provider.



Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policies.
- Check on your preteen/teen's attendance to make sure absences are not adding up.
- Communicate with your child(ren)'s teachers.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents or community agencies if you need resources and support.



Every day counts.

Together, we can ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Your support today builds their tomorrow.



GUIDED BY OUR VALUES



BELONGING



RESPECT



RECONCILIATION



EMPATHY



EQUITY



PERSEVERANCE

Every day counts. Let's work together to help your child thrive at SMS. Please reach out to your child's teacher, counsellor, LRT or Ms. Edgell or Mrs. Leroux if we can help in any way.