



École Intermédiaire Shuswap Middle School

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

September 3, 2025

Hello Shuswap Middle School Students and Families!

Welcome to SMS for the 2025-2026 school year! The staff have been working hard to get everything set for an awesome year. We hope you are as excited as we are to have everyone back at school. This year promises to be extra special as it is the last year that we will have full grade 6-8 programs in both French and English. It will be a year to remember 😊

A big welcome to all our new Grade 6 students, our returning Grade 7s, our “graduating” 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. We encourage all students to get involved in the many aspects of life at SMS. Remember, your experience will be as good as you make it, so get involved in your school, join teams and clubs, and, of course, work hard!

As I’m sure you are aware, I am new to SMS this year so I thought I would share a little about me. I grew up here and went to Shuswap Junior Secondary many years ago. This is the first time I have worked in a school that I attended as a child! After living in a number of other towns while working as a teacher and principal, I moved back home in 2013 to be closer to family. I have been an educator for over 30 years and truly love my job. I am very much looking forward to getting to know all the students and families at SMS. Please stop by and introduce yourself- and give me a bit of grace as I work on my goal to learn everyone’s name this year 😊

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

Yours truly,

Ms. Edgell, Principal
Mr. Petch, 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. Today’s newsletter is the only one we will print out and send home with students. Future newsletters will be emailed and posted to our website www.sms.sd83.bc.ca Printing over 600 newsletters is pretty expensive and perhaps not very environmentally friendly! Please visit our website and our Facebook page for regular updates.

School Website www.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 24 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 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. 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 12** 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 Information Code of Conduct
- Student Information Code of Conduct
- Parent Personal Information Consent
- Student Personal Information Consent
- Parent Outside Media Consent
- Student Outside Media Consent
- myBluePrint Consent
- Parent Network Permission
- Student Wifi Agreement
- Walking Parent Permission

It is mandatory that all forms be reviewed and responded to by parent/guardians. Several forms require student completion on Student Connect, as well.

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-transfer 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, 2025.

Yearbooks

Yearbook presales will begin in mid-September through the Jostens website. Once we receive more information from Jostens such as due dates and the website link, we will let families know via email, announcements at school, and post it on the SMS website at sms.sd83.bc.ca.

The school will not be accepting payment for yearbooks this year.

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.

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. This year we are looking for someone to take on the role of PAC treasurer. This is a very important role and without having it filled, we won't be able to form a PAC. Please consider taking on this position. If you are interested, or would like more information, please email our current PAC president Morgan Turland at mturland@gmail.com. All the students in our school benefit from the tremendous support of PAC. We hope you will join this dedicated team! Our first PAC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 22 at 6:30 in the SMS Library.



Fall Dates:

September 22	Photo Day
September 22	PAC meeting 6:30 SMS library
September 24	Dessert night/Open house 5:30-6:30 p.m.
September 25	Terry Fox Run
September 29	Pro-D Day: no school for students
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: No school
October 13	Thanksgiving: No school
October 20	Parent/Teacher/Student conferences: students do not attend classes other than their scheduled time
October 22	Photo Retake day
October 24	Provincial Pro D Day: no school for students
November 10	Pro-D Day: no school for students
November 11	Remembrance Day: no school
December 22	Winter Break starts