



**HATZIC MIDDLE  
GRADE 6  
WELCOME GUIDE  
2021-22**

EY KW'ESE XWE'I ME! WELCOME! BIENVENUE!

We are looking forward to working together in the next three years to support your child's middle school experience.

## **Ey kw'ese Xwe'i me Xath'aq! Welcome to Hatzic Middle! Bienvenue à l'école Hatzic Middle!**

We are grateful to be able to welcome your family to our school which is in the traditional, ancestral, unceded and shared territories of the Sto:lo peoples, including the Matheqwí, Sq'éwlets, Qwó:lt'el, and Leq'á:mel First Nations. Generations of the community have attended Hatzic Middle school in many forms throughout its history. We welcome grade 6 students from Stave Falls, Silverdale, Albert McMahon, Cherry Hill, E.S. Richards, Hatzic Elementary, Dewdney and Deroche schools. The transition to middle school can be challenging for students due to differences in middle and elementary school settings. It is important for parents' transition, as well as their child. We look forward to working with you and your children. The image below is by Ovilá Mailhot, Coast Salish artist, who created the image for the school's work on equity. It also reflects the process of transition to a new place. In his words,

*"The **eagle** is one of my favourite representations used in our culture & among many Nations. To me the eagle can represent strength, knowledge & wisdom. A symbol that I could see easily tied into students, teachers & family. That some might see as a role model as well, eagle being the one creature capable of soaring closest to the creator above all.*

*The **sunrise** behind the eagle brings meaning of a new day & new journeys ahead. A combination shared by both students & teachers. With the educator's role to show care, a healthy love while nurturing the students to grow and continue their new beginnings in life.*

*The **paddles raised**. A representation of a diverse group of individuals sharing a common goal on their journey together as educators & students. Each individual has their own unique qualities, different skill sets to paddle on the same path together. The skill sets, techniques and knowledge of operating these paddles in life's journey come from our educators & parents mentoring and knowledge shared.*

*The **canoe** is a representation of our past and something that is still used to this day. Representing how our culture & traditional ways remain intact. The canoe is used on our destination in a collective journey."*



## **Who's Who in the Middle School?**

Students may notice when they get to the middle school that there are several adults around, but they are not always sure what those adults do and who to ask for help.

### **CASE MANAGER**

This person gets to know the strengths of the students with designations and develops with parents, students, teachers and administrators, the student's Individual Education Planning. Case managers are the point of contact for any questions or concerns for students with designations. You can expect to hear from your child's case manager in early fall. This person communicates the students' strengths and needs and helps set out plans to help support.

### **COUNSELORS**

One very important thing for students to understand is that their middle school counselor is there to help them, just like their elementary counselor. Each counselor works with a set of students, according to the first letter in the students' last names. For many schools, that counselor rotates between elementary and middle schools, so you may already know who they are when you get here! Parents can also reach out to counselors if you have concerns for your child.

### **INDIGENOUS SUCCESS COACH**

The Indigenous Success Coach works with students with indigenous backgrounds to ensure that their needs are being met and that school is a welcoming and safe place to learn and to be. Families can reach out to the Success Coach if they have questions or concerns regarding school for their child. The Success Coach works with teachers, Indigenous Liaison Workers, counselors and others to help make positive connections for students. A form for indicating that your family would like to work with indigenous programs is included in this document.

### **YOUTH CARE WORKER**

Middle school also has a Youth Care Worker who works alongside the counselors to help support students. Students might talk to them if they have concerns about a class, a friend or just need to know what class comes next, or if you are hungry, or just want to ask a question about school. The Youth Care Worker has many resources available to help students connect with the people in the school and sometimes even outside the school recommendations to help make middle school a positive experience.

### **INDIGENOUS LIAISON WORKERS**

Hatzic Middle School has an exceptional resource in the Indigenous Liaison Workers who connect with students of indigenous background to help support the connection between the student and success at school. Hatzic Middle has the "Wolf Den" which is a welcoming home for some incredible supports where art, music, games, food, drumming, beading and most importantly, people are there to help.

### **CLASSROOM TEACHERS**

You will have many different classroom teachers in middle school, sometimes as many as 6 or 7. When you have worries or questions about a class, a parent or student can reach out to that classroom

teacher. For example, if you are finding social studies confusing, reach out to your social studies teacher for help. A teacher is also the first point of contact for academic questions and concerns. Grade 7 teachers are ready to help you with getting started in middle school!

#### EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS

Some students will work with Educational Assistants. They are there to help with the strategies that are developed with the case managers, teachers, parents, and others to help make school a great place to learn for students with specific designations. Educational Assistants work in classrooms with students to help with the strategies in the classes. If you are wondering if a student could work with an Educational Assistant, please contact an administrator to discuss.

#### CUSTODIANS

Middle School has building service workers who keep our school clean and functioning throughout the day. If you see something that might need attention, let the school office know and they will know what to do. It is also great to keep in mind that our learning environment is a shared space and each student has a role in keeping it healthy and beautiful.

#### LIBRARIAN

Middle School has a librarian who works with students, teachers and others to help create dynamic learning environments both in the learning commons and in classrooms. With print and digital resources, games, and activities happening regularly in the learning commons, you will want to get to know the librarian.

#### ADMINISTRATORS

Middle School has several administrators – a principal and two vice-principals. If you have a concern or an idea about school, if you need help with any person in the school, let us know! We are here to help!

### **Learning Support and Middle School**

Learning support in Middle school follows an inclusive role. Students with designations can have their instruction provided to them in the regular classroom setting. Hence, there is the option for no “pull-out” for IEP students from their regular classroom settings. The case manager, parent, educational “assistant, and teacher work together to ensure that strategies are in place in classrooms for success for the student. For a few students with an IEP, they may be instructed in Core Class classroom settings, such as Core Literacy, Core Numeracy and Lifeskills. Students with designations may also be served through additional activities such as hydrotherapy (swimming) and carefully chosen electives.

Additional learning support is available for students with designations and others who have been identified by the school-based team. The learning support is offered to help give extra time, building on skills and strategies that are outlined in the IEP. It can mean that a student goes to a learning block regularly as a part of their schedule, or it can mean that students can access the learning support teachers as needed for a particular course. For example, if you need a little extra support with reading, the learning support teacher can help a student learn ways to use technology to help, and then keep learning alongside their peers in the inclusive approach to English.

## **DAY TO DAY AT HMS**

### **A Typical Middle School Day:**

8:30 ish Arrive at school from the bus or car or walking

Find your locker to put your backpack and lunch away. Get your books and pens and pencils and binders for your first class. Now is a good time to go to the washroom or get a drink of water. Visit with your friends or head to the Wolf Den, the library or outside to hang out while you wait for the first bell.

8:47 am At the first bell, start walking to your class.

8:50 am. At the second bell, you should be at your class, ready to learn with your supplies.

10:09 am At the end of first block, you have time to go to your locker, put away your books, get books for the second block, get your snack and eat it and then walk to your second class. This is also a good time to use the washroom and say hi to your friends.

10:17 Second block starts and goes until 11:26 am.

11:36 Lunchtime! Go to your locker, put away your books and get ready for lunch by getting your lunch or your cafeteria card and you have many choices! You can eat in the cafeteria, outside, on the benches, in the Wolf Den or with friends by your locker of choice. Also a good time to use the washroom. This is also a great time to join a club. Some teachers often have tutorials (extra help time) at lunch – if you need help with a class, ask a teacher how to get help. Lunch time clubs and activities also include:

-Robotics, Outdoor Club (hiking, skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, snowshoeing, climbing!)

-Writing Club, Open Arms Club, Hula Hoop Club, Anime Club, Dragster Club, Art Club, Basketball

12:18 – First bell after lunch, go to your locker, put away your lunch, get your books for your third class.

12:21 – First class after lunch goes from 12:21-1:40 pm

1:40-1:47 – Go to locker to get supplies for your last block. Eat a snack if you have any left!

1:47-3:06 – Last class

3:06 – Go to your locker, get your supplies for homework, your gym strip to be washed?, your old lunch leftovers and walk to the bus loop. Your school day is done!

### **Details that help make Middle School a bit better...**

#### **BINDERS**

Most classes require an organizational system comprised of binders and/or folders. A 3 ring binder is usually required and acts as the student's desk, the place where he/she keeps most of his/her things for class. Zip-style binders are great because you can keep writing utensils and handouts in them. A two-

binder system is recommended – one for Day 1 classes, and one for Day 2. Dividers can organize each binder into 4 separate class sections.

### AGENDA/HMS App

One of the most important objects a student will possess in middle school is their agenda and/or the App. The agenda is essentially a planning book in which students can write down homework assignments, upcoming projects, dated activities, or any other important information. This function is also available on the App. Using an agenda can help students with short-term and long-term goal-setting and planning. Be sure to talk with your students about the best method for organization.

### CLASSES

Grade 7 means that you will have 5 required classes - English 7, Math 7, Science 7, Social Studies 7 and Physical Health Education 7. You also will have 3 Rotational courses.

### ROTATIONS

These are classes that students take in addition to core classes that allow for variety in their day. Some examples of electives may include French, Halq'emeylem, leadership, drama, robotics, digital literacy, computational thinking, media arts or art. If a student would like to take band or choir, one of those rotational class blocks will be the music class instead. Classes are held quarterly, or semestered, and students will have many different classes and teacher expectations to keep track of, so writing everything down in the agenda or the App is essential.

### **Music/Band/Drama Band,**

Music/Band/Choir and Musical Theatre are a few other ways for middle school students to get involved in their school culture. If students wish to participate in band or orchestra, let us administrators know! Students with no prior experience can start playing an instrument in grade 7. Musical Theatre and Hatzic Voice productions may require that students try out to participate. Many of these programs require after school and evening commitments for performances. Hatzic Middle Music program is phenomenal!

### **Hockey Academy**

Students wanting to join the Hockey Academy to build on hockey skills and strategies should let our administrators know. Hockey Academy is subject to enrolment. Students need to be participating in a community hockey league to join the hockey academy. There is also a fee for the hockey academy. Hockey Academy takes the place of a rotation class in grade 7.

### HOMEWORK

Homework at the elementary level is used for skills practice and is an indicator of understanding of concepts. It is not supposed to be used to determine a student's level of proficiency. In middle school, students have homework to complete, presentations to give in class, and big group projects to turn in. It is the foundation for future learning. Students must understand that they have homework. Parents should encourage their students to find a homework buddy in their class to ask about assignments and

missed work when they are absent. Several middle school teachers have websites where parents and students can access assignment information.

## TIME MANAGEMENT

In middle school, time becomes a precious commodity. Students normally have at least four classes in a school day- with four different teachers, four different expectations, and sometimes four different homework assignments! Along with being responsible for all of the above, students must also be responsible for managing time; both at school and at home. One major academic process that students must fit in to their busy schedules is homework whether completing homework assignments, major projects, or studying for tests. Students should use completed work as a study guide along with notes from class. When studying ahead, students should review notes each night. If help is needed with homework, please reach out to the specific classroom teacher to start the conversation about how to find the help that you need.

## The SOCIAL

### **Problem-solving, Making Good Choices, and Responsibility**

It is important to remember that students' first priority in middle school is to learn! That being said, social skills can greatly enhance their chance of having a positive environment in which to learn. Efforts and choices will directly affect grades, opportunities to participate in sports and/or other extracurricular activities, peer interactions, and relationships with adults both in and out of school. Part of growing up and gaining independence involves gaining the trust of both teachers and parents. To do so, students will learn responsibility and the ability to make good choices across settings. The students' ability to problem- solve and choose positive ways to interact with parents, teachers, and peers will aid in making their middle school experience successful. Remember, the adults in the school are here to help you learn through the daily interactions you have in the Hatzic Middle community.

## MAKING/CHOOSING FRIENDS

One of the cool but scary things about middle school is seeing all of the new faces. Knowing how to make new friends will be extremely important in the middle school setting. Several different elementary schools feed into one middle school, and students are assigned randomly to classes. As a result, students may not be on the same team with their friends they may have had while in elementary school. Some students might already know a lot of students from their old elementary school, but many students do not know anyone at all. Going to middle school is a great opportunity to make new friends. Some tips for making new friends are:

- Get involved in school activities
- Introduce yourself to students who sit around you in your classes
- Choose different partners during group work assignments in your classes
- Sit with different groups of people at lunch
- Make an appointment with the school counselor for help with making friends.

## PEER PRESSURE

Middle school is a time of great transition emotionally, physically, and socially. All of these changes can either be nurtured, or hindered by peers. Remember, peer pressure can be either positive or negative. Examples of positive peer pressure might include encouraging friends to study by offering to study with them or motivating them to work hard at a sport. Examples of negative peer pressure might include someone encouraging students to spread rumors, be disruptive in class, or skip school. In order to best handle social pressure, the following tips might be helpful:

- Find friends with similar interests, values, and beliefs
- Be assertive—tell friends what you like/don't like
- Don't use alcohol or other drugs
- Avoid situations in which you know that you could get into trouble
- Learn to handle conflicts in a positive way

## BULLYING

Bullying is unfair (meaning the —bully uses some sort of power over their victim) and one-sided (meaning only one person or one group of people is engaging in bullying behavior in the situation), repeated, and intentional. Bullying happens when someone keeps hurting, frightening, threatening, or leaving someone out on purpose. Bullying can include behaviors such as:

- Physical violence and attacks
- Extortion and theft
- Taunts, name-calling and put-downs
- Peer group exclusion
- Threats and intimidation
- Cyberbullying

Help is available to students who feel that they are being bullied. If a student witnesses a bullying situation, they have the power to be part of the problem or part of the solution depending on their reactions to the situation. They can exacerbate the situation by doing nothing, encouraging the bully, or pretending not to see. Students can help the situation by immediately reporting the situation to an adult, by helping the victim to get out of the situation and encouraging the victim to get help. It is imperative that every student knows at least three appropriate things to say and/or do when they are victims of bullying. Another aspect of bullying involves forming cliques. Groups of friends with similar interests are healthy and natural. However, cliques are formed when students gather together and begin excluding other students from their group based on superficial reasons (i.e. not pretty enough, not smart enough). Stereotyping, discrimination, and negative social interactions with other groups are possible outcomes of joining cliques.

**Students should seek an adult to help them in this situation.**

## CYBERBULLYING



Cyberbullying occurs when students use a data device such as a computer or cell phone to bully or harass other students. This may occur in various ways including text messaging, using social network sites to message each other, and via email.

Just as in elementary school, positive social interactions of all students are encouraged, and bullying is not tolerated. **If students find themselves in uncomfortable situations in which they feel they need help, they should be aware that teachers, counselors, and/or any other school personnel are there to help them.**

#### DISCIPLINE

It is important that middle school students are aware early of the policies for the school district and for the school. Mission Public School District policies can be found on this district website, and Hatzic Middle School policies can be found at the front of each student's agenda. Students need to understand the differences between their elementary school rules and the new middle school rules and expectations. Topics such as dress code policy and other common violations should be talked about at length with students.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/GETTING INVOLVED**

##### SPORTS

An activity that students often look forward to in middle school is the opportunity to represent their school in athletics. Hatzic Middle has many great sports teams for grade 7s to join. You could also help as a manager. That is another great way to stay connected with friends if you love a sport but don't love participating in it yourself. Students interested in being a manager should contact the appropriate coach as soon as possible.

##### BE A FAN

Students are encouraged to attend athletic events and support their teams and their school. Games are not only a great way to support the school and the team, they are a great way to meet new friends and hang out with your old ones.

##### CLUBS

Like sports, clubs are a great way to get to know some people and have some fun.

Some may include:

- Outdoors Club (Skiing, Boarding, Hiking – all things outside)
- Writing Club
- Environment Club
- Musical Theatre
- Open Arms Club

Also offered at times:

- Dungeons and Dragons Club, Anime Club, Dragster racing Club, Robotics Club, Circus Club, Art Club, Ultimate Frisbee Club

#### TIPS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS

Parent participation in education is closely related to student achievement. Both of you will be affected by this change to middle school. The key during adolescence is to balance your support while promoting responsibility and independence in your child.

- Become informed about your new school by attending orientations, going to open houses, reading school guides and student handbooks, create a My Ed account to monitor student grades.
- Remember that schools are open during the summer. Take this as an opportunity to visit Hatzic Middle before the first day of school. Moving into a new building can be a bit scary sometimes. Being familiar with the school building before the first day of school can help lessen your child's anxiety.
- Consider your child's feelings. Your child may not want you joining them for lunch, but you can stay involved by volunteering in your child's school, chaperoning on fieldtrips and/or joining the PAC committee.
- Know the name of your child's team, the classroom teachers, the case manager, and the school counselor. Students of all ages benefit when family and school cooperate and have a positive relationship. If you have questions or concerns don't hesitate to call or email the school staff.
- Decide on the best method of keeping up with homework and projects for your child.
- Balance after-school recreational activities, provide a quiet study area and set the expectation that your child will be working regularly on homework and long-term projects. Set rules about technology. Organization and time management skills must be developed so students will be prepared and not feel overwhelmed.
- Know the dress code for school and the Physical Education classes. Be cognizant of the need of increased personal hygiene as developmental body changes occur.
- Check the school calendar or install the HMS App. Know when interims and report cards go out, dates of early release days and any dates of special activities (e.g. Picture Day, athletic event).
- Be sure the main office has current contact information. Please provide updated information to the school clerical staff.
- Talk to your child about school and peers. Listen for comments that reflect how they are feeling and what they are thinking. Expect your child to make mistakes and have personal struggles. Give them time to think and make decisions about how to handle their problems and deal with the consequences.
- Provide opportunities for your child to develop their interests and socialize with friends, but be sure to monitor their choices. Peer acceptance and self-esteem issues become increasingly important in middle school.

Please reach out to any of the staff listed below if you have questions about what Hatzic Middle might be like for your child:

Contact information for Hatzic Middle:

Staff	Role	Email
Mr. Gabriele	Principal	<a href="mailto:Marchi.Gabriele@mpsd.ca">Marchi.Gabriele@mpsd.ca</a>
Mr. Vos	Vice-Principal	<a href="mailto:Ralph.Vos@mpsd.ca">Ralph.Vos@mpsd.ca</a>
Mrs. Vetter	Vice-Principal	<a href="mailto:Lani.Vetter@mpsd.ca">Lani.Vetter@mpsd.ca</a>
Ms. Curror	Counselor, A-G	<a href="mailto:Susan.Curror@mpsd.ca">Susan.Curror@mpsd.ca</a>
Ms. Hale	Counselor H-R	<a href="mailto:Yvonne.Hale@mpsd.ca">Yvonne.Hale@mpsd.ca</a>
Mr. Bartlett	Counselor S-Z	<a href="mailto:Gareth.Bartlett@mpsd.ca">Gareth.Bartlett@mpsd.ca</a>
Ms. Brooks	Indigenous Success Coach	<a href="mailto:Katy.Brooks@mpsd.ca">Katy.Brooks@mpsd.ca</a>
Ms. Velestuk	Youth Care Worker	<a href="mailto:Joan.Velestuk@mpsd.ca">Joan.Velestuk@mpsd.ca</a>

Contact information:

Website:

<https://hms.mpsd.ca/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

Street Address:

34800 Dewdney Trunk Rd, Mission BC, V2V 5V6

Phone: 604 826-3651

References:

Wake County Public Schools. (2020) *Packing Up: Middle School Transition Guide*.

<https://www.wcpss.net/cms/lib/NC01911451/Centricity/Domain/12/202040-PackingUpGuide.pdf>



**Siwal Si'wes (Our forefathers' teachings)**

Indigenous Education, School District 75 (Mission)

32444 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Mission, B.C. V2V 2B5

(Tel) 604-826-3103 (Fax) 604-820-2850

**Parent/Caregiver Consultation Form**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_

To Parents/Caregivers of children with Indigenous Ancestry in Mission Public School District 75. This includes children of First Nations (Status/Non-Status), Métis and/or Inuit ancestry.

Siwal Si'wes offers academic and cultural support for students to participate in while attending Mission Public Schools. The programs are provided in accordance with the Ministry of Education Guidelines for Indigenous Education and in consultation with our Siwal Si'wes Indigenous Advisory Council.

The Siwal Si'wes Indigenous Department of SD75 provides the following types of supports for children and youth of Indigenous ancestry attending SD75 schools, and includes but is not limited to cultural, social-emotional, healthy living, attendance support and classroom (academic) supports.

These supports are provided through an Indigenous lens and can happen in the classroom, or in small groups or individually (one-on-one), depending on the needs of the child and vision of the school.

All schools are staffed with a Siwal Si'wes Indigenous Support Worker who is an active school team member. This person liaises and collaborates with school staff (including teachers, counselors, youth care workers and administrators), and parents and caregivers, all with the best interest of the child and/or youth at front and centre. With parent permissions, they liaise with local community service/outreach organizations many of whom who provide supports specifically for Indigenous children, youth and families.

**Please complete this form and return it to your child's school. One completed form per family is necessary. Please list all children and their school on one form.**

<u>Name of Child</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Specific Ancestry/Band Affiliation</u>
1) _____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

My child(ren), above, has/have Indigenous Ancestry and my signature indicates that I have been consulted regarding the Siwal Si'wes Indigenous Program of SD75.