

St. Maurice School
Orientation to Grade 7
for Current Grade 6 Students
June 2009

New to Grade 7

- As students enter Grade 7, many have mixed feelings of excitement and anxiety.
- Parents often also have anxieties towards the notion of their children starting “secondary” school or “junior high”.
- In the end, most students prefer the brisker pace of Grade 7 to the fixed classroom setting of the elementary school.

Students at St. Maurice...

- will be tremendously more successful if they are active learners and become directly involved in both the curricular and extra-curricular life of the school. Students are expected to develop strong organizational skills, homework and study habits.

Grade 7 & 8 Timetable

Students in 7&8 enter and leave by the brown doors.

- 8:30 am School opens
- 8:45 am Home Room
- 8:55-9:40 Period 1
- 9:45-10:30 Period 2
- 10:35-11:20 Period 3
- 11:25-12:10 Period 4
- 12:15-12:40 Lunch in the Cafeteria
- 12:40-12:55 Outdoor recess
- 1:05-1:50 Period 6
- 1:55-2:40 Period 7
- 2:45-3:30 Period 8
- 3:45 pm School closes
except for students involved in the many organized extra-curricular activities offered at St. Maurice
- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. & 3:45-5:00 p.m. Study Hall
(\$1 per session)

Students receive their timetable, pay fees and get forms on Registration Day (the day before classes begin in Sept).

Students are asked to bring their school supplies and refer to locker assignments posted outside of their home room in order to have their lockers prepared.

Home Rooms

- Help build a community spirit among students
- Grade 7 or 8 students attend all classes in the same home room grouping year-long (except during the Art / Band option slots)
- Home room classes may consist of about 22-28 students
- Many new students enter St. Maurice School at the Grade 7 level

Morning Home Room Period (8:45-8:53 am)

- O Canada, announcements, morning prayer
- Attendance, submission of forms and fees to the home room teacher
- Student Leadership in-class announcements
- Students are expected to be in their assigned home room, dressed in full uniform, and with all materials needed for their first classes of the day before the home room late bell rings at 8:45 am
- Students arriving late for home room must sign in at the General Office and obtain a late slip for entry into their class. Repeated lates will be addressed by the school administration.

Grade 7 & 8 Courses

Students attend 45 minute classes. The number of classes per six day cycle is indicated below:

- English Language Arts (10)
- Mathematics (6)
- Science (5)
- Social Studies (5)
- French (4)
- Physical Education / Health Education (4)
- Religion (4)
- Information and Communication Technology (2)

Plus one of:

Art (2) or Band (2)

A Grade 7 or 8 student will have a number of different subject specialist teachers!

Assignments and Tests

Depending upon the subject area, assessments may include any or all of:

- Homework checks
- Hand-in assignments
- Research projects
- Lab and activity reports
- Textbook readings
- Pop quizzes
- Group work assignments
- Scheduled quizzes
- Oral questioning
- Skills assessments
- Participation marks
- Presentations
- Formal tests
- Formal Examinations start in Grade 8 worth 40% of final mark

Each student must record assignments and due dates into their Student Agenda daily. The Agenda also contains the St. Maurice School Student Handbook.

Reporting Periods

- Two main reporting periods:
Sept-Jan: Term 1 and Feb-June: Term 2
- The Final Grade in each course is determined as the average of these two Term Reports
- The final mark required to pass each course is 50%
- Mid-term (interim) Progress Reports are issued in November (for Term 1) and April (for Term 2)
- Parent-Teacher Interviews are scheduled after the release of the November and January Report Cards
- Students are expected to work diligently to pass every course

Lunch Time

Lunch Time 12:10-12:40

- Microwave ovens and drink vending machines available on site
- A varied menu available daily from the full-service cafeteria (pay by cash or debit card)
- Students will be assigned to the 12:40 pm clean up crew

Outdoor Recess Time

- 12:40-12:55
- 7&8 students have use of the entire playground space
- Staff supervised

Locker Time to prepare for afternoon classes from 12:55 pm, Period 6 begins at 1:05 pm

Opportunities, Responsibilities, and Consequences

- High achieving students are eligible to win Academic Achievement Awards and be named to the school's Honour Roll
- Students will be held increasingly responsible for their own academic success or failure
- Students will be held increasingly responsible for the choices they make regarding their words, actions, attitudes, and behaviour
- Consequences will be assigned for inappropriate behaviours leading to infractions (including: teacher-assigned detentions, contact with parent, suspensions)
- A cumulative record is kept from all classes as to the student's progress for the week. Infractions are given based on three or more discrepancies (checkmarks) (e.g. inappropriate behaviour). Parents will be notified of infractions.

Incomplete Homework

- Grade 7 students are expected to keep up with day to day work. Students who fall behind will be referred to an after school study hall for a 2 week duration.

General Notes

Student Uniform (different than for K-6)

- Crested dress shirt
- Dress shoes, School tie
- Dress pants / kilt

Lockers and Class changes

- Students must store ALL personal belongings in their locker (they do not have a desk)
- Must carry all needed materials to classes held in various rooms
- Travel via outdoors in Fall and Spring
- Change for Phys Ed using the lower level washrooms

Textbooks

- Individually assigned, student financially responsible for lost or damaged texts

Homework

- Homework time for students in 7&8 is 1 to 1½ hours daily (includes written work, text readings, research, projects, review and study time)
- Due dates are deadlines, not suggestions. Late penalties will be applied (e.g. 20% per day, zero after 3 days late)

Calendar – Grade 7 students follow the 7-12 school calendar for inservice days.

Student Handbook – school rules and regulations are published in the Agenda

Sports and Athletics

Cross-Country
Running

Volleyball

Basketball

Badminton

Track & Field

**Home of the
Patriots**

Year-End Sports
Awards Banquet

7&8 School Clubs and Activities

- Leadership Group
 - Gym Riot
 - Spirit Weeks
 - Drama
 - Sports Banquet
 - Yearbook Club
 - Math Contests
- Art Poster Contests

All subject to student interest
and staffing availability.

Words from the Wise ...

(from current and former Grade 7 students)

- “pack light”, but
- “bring all supplies to class”
- “show all of your work”
- “be sure of class rooms”
- “pay attention”
- “keep caught up”
- “copy everything off the board”
- “two subjects per binder maximum”
- “expect more homework”
- “faster teaching”
- “lock your locker”
- “don’t wait ‘til the last minute”
- “pop quizzes happen”
- “keep organized”
- “keep your binders in order”
- “ don’t lose anything”
- “incomplete homework is not acceptable”
- “set up a homework schedule”
- “homework is almost always due tomorrow”
- “go to extra review”
- “stay focused in class”