



# MITCHELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER September 2019

### Principal's Message

Welcome back! We can't wait to get started! I hope everyone had a great summer and you all had time to relax and play. My family and I had another great summer camping. This is a picture of us at our favourite spot in Clear Lake, Manitoba.



A huge welcome to all of our new students and families to MMS! We can't wait to see you! A number of new families have moved into Mitchell over the summer. We are up to about 343 students this year. We have 4 homerooms at grade 5,6 and 7 with 3 homerooms in grade 8.

We have new faces to our school staff as well! We welcome Mrs. Michelle Friesen (grade 5), Mr. Jodoin (grade 6) and Mr. Kroeker (grade 7). We also have new EAs: Mrs. Karr and Ms. Reed. Mrs. Broesky has also changed roles at MMS in becoming our new Learning Support teacher.

### **Our priorities for this year will focus on the following ideas:**

1. Providing all students opportunities to learn the skills, disposition, values, and knowledge required for a productive and wholesome life.
2. Building school culture to enable all students to learn.
3. Partnering with our communities to enable all students and staff to learn.

From a divisional perspective the focus will be in the following three areas:

1. Social/Emotional (Engagement)
2. Learning Partnerships

3. Competencies with Curriculum (the words in the centre of the Deeper Learning graphic)

These are great fits and tie perfectly with the goals that MMS has been working towards the last three years.



**As a school, we will focus on the following goals in 2019-20 to ensure academic, intellectual, emotional and social engagement for all of our kids:**

1. By June 2020, All MMS students will have a measurable increase of their appreciation for mathematical mindset and demonstrate perseverance in a variety of math environments.
2. By June 2020, ELA teachers will have begun the process of implementing a school-wide ELA continuum, with a focus on one of the following six areas: Reading, Writing, Listening, Viewing, Speaking, and Representing.
3. By June 2020, all MMS students will understand, be able to articulate and perform their role(s) within the Ultimate Warrior Core Values to gain a sense of belonging to MMS. Be Ready to Learn (5), Be Ready to Help (6), Be Ready to Participate (7), Be Ready to Serve (8). Engagement data will increase 5% at each grade level.



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### The Ultimate Warrior Grade Level Grade Level Core



**WE ALL BELONG**



**Mitchell Middle School**

I look forward to seeing you at Mitchell Middle soon! Please keep in touch with our school by following our social media feeds at @MMSHanover (Instagram and Twitter).

Sincerely,  
Andrew Mead  
Principal  
[amead@hdsd.ca](mailto:amead@hdsd.ca)  
Office: 204-320-9488  
Cell: 204-371-6278

### Personal Devices

#### **Grade 5s and 6s**

Since we have Chromebooks available in the classrooms at this level, kids are encouraged to keep their personal devices at home. If they do decide to bring one to school, they are expected to keep it in their backpack or pocket and not take it out during the school day.

#### **Grade 7s and 8s**

I feel it's important that we teach kids how to use these devices as a tool that can help them with school. Preparing them for High School, so they can continue to use them responsibly, without any worry.

So, kids can bring them to school and if the classroom teacher allows, they can use them in class to help with their work. If they become a distraction, teachers will ask kids to put the devices away or leave them with the teacher for the rest of the period/day (for the rest of the day if it's a repeated issue). Parents may be asked to come pick up devices if they become a bigger distraction. Students are NOT required to bring personal devices and must have parent permission to do so.

Some important things that we will make sure kids are aware of are:

- No personal devices are allowed in bathrooms/change rooms.
- Stay off social media sites while in class. (Facebook, Snapchat etc. – lots of these apps have a minimum age of 13 so technically most of our kids shouldn't have accounts yet...)
- Music/headphones only to be used in class with teacher permission only. (not in the halls at all)
- Students who use their device at school are bound by the HSD Acceptable Use Policy that parents and kids sign upon registration to our school. Logging into the school network) Wi-Fi means that online activity can be reviewed if necessary.
- If a grade 7/8 student must use a personal device they are permitted to use it within close proximity of the school office when they can not find an MMS staff member to ask permission.



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### First Note Night



Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! I am looking forward to a new year of music making with everyone! Here are a few things for you to be aware of.

**Monday, Sept. 9 at 6:30**, all grade 7 band students have a **mandatory** First Note Night. It is important that everyone is there, as it is a solid introduction to the different instruments and will provide an excellent foundation.

If you are interested in being a part of lunch choir, we will be starting up in October, and it will look a little bit different!

If you are interested in jazz band, that will also start in October. Rehearsal times will likely be Mondays after school and Fridays at lunch, although those could change. More information to come later. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Ms. Friesen at [keifriesen@hsd.ca](mailto:keifriesen@hsd.ca).

### Athletic Department

#### Cross Country

##### **Meets**

**Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm**- HSD Run #1 - Steinbach Soccer Complex

**Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am** - Milk Run Challenge - Kilcona Park (Winnipeg)

**Friday, September 27 at 1:00pm** - HSD Run #2 - AD Penner Park

##### **Practices**

All practices will be at lunch - Listen to morning announcements!

### Volleyball

Sign up sheets are up! Practice days and times are TBD. Please stay tuned to announcements.

### **Games**

Girls play every Tuesday at 5:30 starting on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Boys play every Thursday at 5:30 starting on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Terry Fox

Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm at MMS. Parents are welcome to join us!

### Attendance Procedures

#### **Absences**

Homeroom teachers take attendance during AM Homeroom time (between 9:05 AM and 9:10 AM) and PM homeroom time (between 12:53 PM and 1:00 PM). Any child not accounted for after 9:10 AM (or 1:00 PM) will be marked absent. At approximately 9:15 AM, Mrs. Enns will begin calling the parents/guardians of children who have not been excused. To excuse your child, please contact Mrs. Enns in the school office at (204) 320-9488, or by email at [wenns@hsd.ca](mailto:wenns@hsd.ca). You can also call/text Mr. Mead at (204) 371-6278 or email him at [amead@hsd.ca](mailto:amead@hsd.ca). Please be sure to contact us prior to 9:00 AM or anytime before that date to inform us of an absence. Please leave a voicemail if you call before or after regular office hours which are typically 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

#### **Lates**

If a child arrives after 9:10 AM (or 1:00 PM) they will be asked to check in at the office. A late slip will be given to the child to bring to the teacher they have at the time they arrive. Mrs. Enns will then change the attendance from absent to late.(preventing a call home) Students are asked to go to their locker and quickly get to the class they should be in.



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### Lunch Hour

If your child is going home for lunch when they would normally stay, please contact the school as mentioned above or send a note to the homeroom teacher by 9:00 AM.

### Entrance Doors

All students may enter the building using the front doors by the main office or through the doors by the Tech Lab. Between 9:15 AM and Noon, the only doors that will remain unlocked are the ones by the front office and the Home Ec. Lab (staff entrance – east side doors near the parking lot). During the recess and lunch breaks the back doors to the field and the doors by the Tech Lab will be unlocked for students to go outside. At 1:00 all doors will be locked except the front doors and the doors by the Home Ec. Lab (staff entrance).

### MMS Daily Schedule

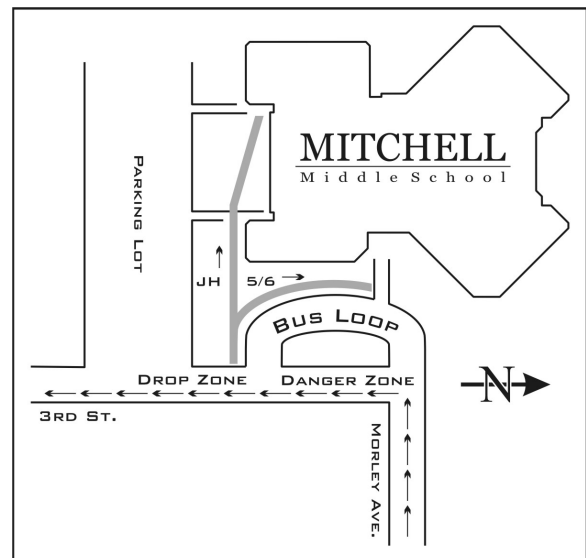
8:50	First bell – Students come inside
8:57	Students report to homerooms/ or Religious Opening Exercises
9:05	Students report to homerooms
9:05-9:10	Homeroom time – Attendance/ Announcements/O Canada
9:10	Period 1
9:50	Period 2
10:25	5/6 Recess
10:30	7/8 Break
10:40	Period 3
11:20	Period 4
11:55	Noon Recess/Clubs
12:30	Lunch Break
12:50	Homeroom - Attendance
1:00	Period 5
1:35	Period 6
2:10	5/6 Recess
2:15	7/8 Break (inside/outside)
2:25	Period 7
3:05	Period 8
3:40	Bus dismissal
3:45	General dismissal

### Vehicular Traffic

#### *Safety Is Still First!*

Some things do not change... student safety remains at the top of our list of concerns. Morning arrivals and afternoon departures are potentially the two most dangerous times of the day at school. With numerous buses coming through the bus loop in the morning and after school, parents coming by to drop off or pick up their children, and many other students traveling on foot or by bicycle, traffic is heavy at those two times of the day. Please!, please!, please! pay close attention to the following rules and directives designed to keep your children safe:

Drop off and pick up your children on the west side of Third Street in front of the school and toward the south end of the bus loop (see the "Drop Zone" area indicated on the accompanying map). Please approach the school from the east on Morley so that all traffic moves past the school in the same north/south direction. Do not drive through the bus loop between 8:30 and 9:00, nor between 3:30 and 4:00.



Do not drive into the parking lot to drop off or pick up children! The parking lot does not have room to safely turn vehicles around, especially



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when children may be near. Thank-you for continuing to work with us to make the traffic part of our operation run as smoothly and safely as possible.

Also, please remind your children to walk on the left side of the street facing traffic and ride their bikes on the right side. Students walking or biking along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between MMS and MES should use the sidewalk and newly designated crossing areas.

*We are very concerned about the serious and increasing danger of students crossing the #52 highway on foot or on their bicycles. Several near misses have been reported where unsupervised students came dangerously close to being hit by motorists as they were crossing the highway. Parents, if you live south of the #52 highway, we at Mitchell Middle School urge you to take advantage of Hanover School Division buses and not to allow your children to walk or ride their bikes to and from school without adult supervision.*

*The RM of Hanover and the Mitchell LUD are working with the Manitoba Department of Highways to provide appropriate infrastructure that ensures a safe place to cross for pedestrians and cyclists. For now, please help ensure your children's safe transportation to and from school by not allowing them to walk or cycle if it requires crossing the highway unless they are supervised by an adult.  
Thank-you for helping keep our/your kids safe!*

### **Strong Connections**

We are planning our annual Mitchell Middle School Strong Connections event for Friday and Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Strong Connections is intended to give teachers and students a head start with developing good relationships that will benefit all students both academically and socially.

Strong Connections is a program designed to enhance the start-of-year assessment of each

child. These activities are not tests, but rather tasks to help us get to know our students and

how they learn in order to know where to begin with instruction.

### **Rationale for Strong Connections**

Hanover School Division priorities state the need for meaningful assessment. Strong Connections is a form of authentic assessment done in practical and useful ways. The purpose of Strong Connections is to enhance start-of-year classroom assessment with all children. This provides an opportunity for teachers to not only assess, but to get to know your child better. It will help teachers plan for instruction that will effectively address the unique learning needs early in the year.

### **What will teachers learn through Strong Connections?**

Teachers working individually with their students in an atmosphere of support and encouragement have an opportunity to collect firsthand information about such things as:

- How they learn.
- Their confidence as learners.
- The learning strategies they possess.
- Their reading, writing and mathematical skills.
- Their approach to problem solving.
- Their attitudes towards school and learning.
- Their ability to reflect upon and set goals for their learning.

### **How will Strong Connections work?**

September 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> are the days designated for students to attend school one day out of the two. With half the students present, homeroom teachers will have the opportunity to meet one on one with each student to participate in assessment activities in Language Arts, Mathematics, and other subjects. This is an opportunity for teachers to gather information about each child's learning that may not be evidenced during whole class instruction. It is also an opportunity to further develop the teacher-student relationship.

Groups of students will be scheduled to be in homerooms for half of the morning and half of the afternoon. The other half morning and afternoon they will be joining larger 'cross-grade'

groups to participate in special athletic and artistic activities. These activities are intended to





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be particularly enjoyable while helping develop relationships with students in other grades.

On the dates of the program, there will be no regularly scheduled classes. Students will get to and from school in their normal manner (bus or other). Your student's Strong Connection date is listed on the back of their report card. We have coordinated this with Mitchell Elementary School so that no family will have students scheduled on both days. Please call the school if you have any questions.

### **MMS Student Council 2019-2020**

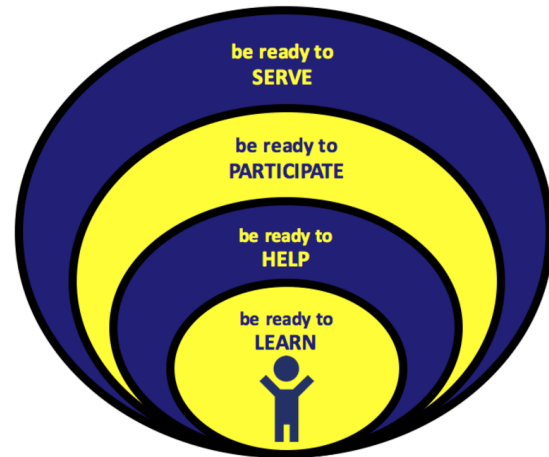
Mitchell Middle School is looking forward to the start of a new school year and is looking for students to participate on the Student Council. Mitchell Middle School's Student Council will be responsible for several events and activities this year, including fundraisers, school spirit activities, community service projects, and other events to involve all students in the Mitchell Middle School experience.

The council positions are all student/peer elected and will consist of the following: President (8<sup>th</sup> grade), Vice President (7<sup>th</sup> grade), Treasurer (all grade levels), Secretary (all grade levels), and a representative from each grade level. Students who are interested in student council must:

- Be flexible
- Have and maintain good grades
- Exhibit the potential for leadership
- Display positive classroom behavior
- Have a genuine interest in the welfare of others
- Consistently portray qualities of responsibility, empathy, integrity, and perseverance

Candidate forms can be picked up at the library and are due on or before **Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**. Student Council speeches and elections will take place **Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**. Grade level representative elections will take place on **Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**.

For more information please direct your questions to Mrs. Hildebrand.



### **Allergy Alert!**

We have students with severe, life-threatening nut allergies. We are encouraging parents to keep this in mind as you pack lunches/snacks for your children. Please avoid all nut products.

Also, please avoid strong perfumes/sprays which may cause an adverse reaction for some students and staff.

### **Printed Newsletter**

Aside from our September issue, this newsletter will be emailed home and posted on our website monthly. (<http://mms.hsd.ca/>) If you would like to continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please email Mrs. Neufeld at [paneufeld@hsd.ca](mailto:paneufeld@hsd.ca) or call the school at (204) 320-9488.



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### Canteen

Pizza will be available on Fridays starting September 6<sup>th</sup> for \$2.00 a slice. Orders are taken at the canteen before 9:00 am.

6" Subway Sub sales will be on Wednesdays starting on September 18<sup>th</sup> for \$5.00 each, and students may choose between ham, cold cut, and pizza subs. Orders may be placed before 9:00 am at the canteen.

**The canteen will officially be open starting Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.**



### Connect with Mitchell Middle School

To get a glimpse into what happens every day at Mitchell Middle School, please follow our social media feeds.

We are on Twitter and Instagram and we will be posting some images of student work and students and teachers showing what they know, how they learn, how they interact and the amazing things that happen in and around our school every day. We will respect HSD permissions to publish information parents/guardians sign at the beginning of the school year (HSD Permission to Publish Form).

**To follow along please connect with us on Twitter and Instagram at @MMShanover.**

### HSD Parent Portal

Stay connected and informed. The new HSD Parent Portal (<https://hsd.ca/schools/parent-portal/>) is a communications tool designed to enhance and increase parent/guardian involvement in the education of their children, by providing secure online access to their child's student information. With a single username and password, parents can access the following data for each of their children attending an HSD school:

- Student Information
- School Fees Account
- Permissions & Consent Forms
- Report Cards
- Grad/Credit Summary
- Attendance Information
- School Information
- Change of Contact Form



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### Notice-Religious Exercises-Mitchell Middle School 2019-2020

The Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division has received petitions requesting that religious exercises be held in Mitchell Middle School during the 2019-2020 school year.

The petitioners have specified their desire for the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and the reading of a Bible

passage or story from the Bible.

As the petitions bear the signatures of parents representing more than 60 students in the school, the Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division has authorized religious exercises, as specified above, to be held before the official instructional day, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:05 a.m., in a designated common area of the school.

Provincial and divisional guidelines will be followed. These guidelines are available from the school office, the divisional administration offices, or on the web site at [www.hsd.ca](http://www.hsd.ca).

Only children of parents who have signed or joined the petition may participate. Parents may join the petition by forwarding a signed note to the Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division (forward to Mitchell Middle School), indicating the name and the grade of the students they are signing for.

### Notice-Religious Instruction-Mitchell Middle School 2019-2020

The Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division has received petitions requesting that religious instruction be held in Mitchell Middle School during the 2019-2020 school year.

The petitioners have specified their desire for the Discovery Time program offered by Child Evangelism Fellowship.

As the petitions bear the signatures of parents representing more than 25 students in the school, the Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division has passed the required by-law permitting religious instruction, as specified above, to be offered by volunteers during designated half-hour per week classes.

Provincial and divisional guidelines will be followed. These guidelines are available from the school office the divisional administration offices, or on the web site at [www.hsd.ca](http://www.hsd.ca).

Only children of parents who have signed or joined the petition may participate. Parents may join the petition by forwarding a signed note to the Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division (forward to Mitchell Middle School), indicating the name and the grade of the students they are signing for.

### Practice of Religion in Hanover School Division

As a Manitoba public school division, the Hanover School Division is obligated to comply with the provisions of The Public Schools Act and provincial guidelines governing the implementation of religious exercises and religious instruction. The Public Schools Act states that public schools must be non-sectarian. Religious exercises and religious instruction in public schools may only be implemented by school boards in a manner consistent with the Act and departmental guidelines after a parent petition is presented to the school board. Petitions must be submitted annually. The Hanover School Division will continue to provide for appropriate religious exercises and instruction consistent with provincial and divisional guidelines.





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2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Day 1 <i>First DAY OF School</i>	<b>5</b> Day 2	<b>6</b> Day 3 Double Cheese Pizza \$2.00	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Day 4 First Note Night (Gr.7)	<b>10</b> Day 5	<b>11</b> Day 6	<b>12</b> Day 1 Dot Day! 	<b>13</b> Day 2 Strong Connections Day 1 Pepp & Mush Pizza \$2.00	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Day 3 Strong Connections Day 2 Canteen Opens!	<b>17</b> Day 4 Student Council Candidate Forms Due 	<b>18</b> Day 5 Subs \$5.00	<b>19</b> Day 6 Character Day!	<b>20</b> Day 1 HSD Cross Country Run #1 Pepp & Cheese Pizza \$2.00	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Day 2 	<b>24</b> Day 3 Student Council Speeches 	<b>25</b> Day 4 Milk Run Subs \$5.00	<b>26</b> Day 5 Terry Fox Run 2:30 PM  Student Council Vote!	<b>27</b> Day 6 HSD Cross Country Run #2 Ham & Pineapple Pizza \$2.00	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Day 1 Orange Shirt Day! Every Child Matters					