

Welcome to Springvalley Middle School 2023-2024

The purpose of Springvalley Middle School is to connect with students in a caring environment that enables them to be
Develop their Curiosity, Creativity and Connection



Parent and Student Information & Handbook

Welcome to SMS

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|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Principal:</u> | Mr. T. Gruenenwald |
| <u>Vice Principal:</u> | Mrs. J. Virk |
| <u>Head Secretary:</u> | Mrs. K. Macaulay |
| <u>Records Clerk:</u> | tba |
| <u>Receptionist:</u> | Ms. D. Day |

Population:

For September 2023

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Students: 580 | Teachers: 45 |
| Support Staff: 39 | Grades 6,7,8 |

Facilities:

Classrooms - 25 including

- An open forum for student gatherings and games
- 6 portables

Applied Skills:

- Wood Shop, Metal Shop, Foods and Sewing, Crafts and Cooking, Electronics, Robotics

Fine Arts:

- Art, Music, Drama, Video Production, Yearbook.

LLC:

- Includes a full-time teacher-librarian and clerk
- Technology-based resources

Gymnasium:

- A full-size gym (new floor this year) with mezzanine, weight facility and bleachers (tba).

Sports Teams

- Basketball, Volleyball, Rugby, Archery, Track and Field

Grounds:

- Includes basketball courts, large, newly sodded playing fields

Support Services:

- Includes Counselling, Learning Assistance, Indigenous Advocacy and Tutoring, Homework Club, Career Programs, Certified Education Assistants (CEA), Parent Advisory Council.

Core Values of the Middle School

School District 23 is committed to supporting middle school philosophy. For a school to be successful, students, staff and parents must be committed to a clearly defined set of core values. These values provide direction for school programs and the establishment of a school climate in which each student may have the opportunity to grow as an individual and reach an optimum level of academic, artistic, athletic, and personal success. The middle school concept has its own unique set of core values. SMS supports the core values characterized by all developmentally responsive middle schools. The Middle Years Association of BC, a chapter of the National Middle School Association, supports the belief that:

Developmentally Responsive Middle Schools are characterized by:

- Educators committed to young adolescents
- A shared vision
- High expectations for all
- An adult advocate for every child
- Family and community partnerships
- A positive school climate

Therefore, Developmentally Responsive Middle Schools provide:

- Curriculum that is challenging, integrative and exploratory
- Varied teaching and learning approaches
- Assessment and evaluation that promote learning
- Flexible organizational structures
- Programs and policies that foster health, wellness and safety
- Comprehensive guidance and support services

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

At SMS we have a flexible schedule that allows us to incorporate effective practices for the middle year's learner. Highlights of our schedule are included below:

CARING COMMUNITIES: Students participate in a "Caring Communities" block every morning where the main focus is to build connections and create community. We develop weekly/monthly school wide theme which are mainly SEL based.

ENRICHMENT: In keeping with the middle school concept of exploratory programs, our staff has initiated and organized Enrichment opportunities: three sessions per year, each ten weeks long. Students select an Enrichment experience to enhance their knowledge and skill acquisition. Some of our community partners (YMCA, B&G Club) also provide enrichment opportunities during this block.

TEAMING: In keeping with the core values of middle schools, our staff supports the concept of teaming, there are core teams of teachers for all grades, along with elective teams and our school-based team of support staff.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Please check our website for an up-to-date, grade-specific supplies list. We update this yearly.

SCHOOL FEES

A CULTURAL AND ACTIVITY FEE of \$30.00 covers the cost of the cultural assembly program which is offered at each school and includes the cost of lock rentals, and student equipment/activity needs.

MUSIC/BAND: Instrument rental/cleaning fee – Please discuss this with Ms. Angle.

All fees may be paid on-line at www.sms.sd23.bc.ca and click on the 'School Cash Online' button and follow the instructions for payment.

BUS PASSES



If you require School District bus transportation, please go to www.sd23.bc.ca and click on the 'School Bus Transportation' link. Under Programs and Services, you will notice on the left hand side of the page 'School Bus Transportation' Routes, Eligibility, Payments, Apply etc.

STRATEGIES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Research has shown that when students learn to balance school assignments, extra-curricular activities, home commitments and their social life, they have more time for creativity and problem solving and they are less stressed!

At Springvalley Middle School, our goal is to help students "Learn How to Learn". We do this in a variety of ways.

ATTENDANCE

Not only is regular attendance a legal requirement, it is also a major factor contributing to a student's success. A close monitoring of student attendance is, therefore, a major feature of this school.

Parents are asked to complete the student's absence on School Messenger before 9:00am.

During school office hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., please call the same number if your child will be late or absent. Parents are also asked to come into the school to sign a student out of class (appointments, family outings/trips etc.) at the office.

ACADEMIC INTERVENTION & HOMEWORK CLUB

At SMS we provide as much support as possible to assist with learning:

- a. Once started, Homework Club will be held from Monday to Thursday 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. A CEA will be available to assist students who attend Homework Club. If you would like your child to attend Homework Club, please call their subject teacher to make arrangements.
- b. Learning Assistance is provided to any student who has been referred by their classroom teacher for additional support.
- c. The Indigenous Tutor (part time) provides support through a push-in and pull-out model during school.
- d. Classroom support teachers also provides support through push-in and pull-out model during school.

DISTRICT INFORMATION & CODE OF CONDUCT

All middle schools in School District 23 have a set of common policies, which help to promote the healthy growth and development of their students. Some specifics about these policies are listed below.

Closed Campus - All middle schools in SD23 are closed campuses

- Students may not leave the school campus at any time during the school day.
- Students stay at school for lunch.
- Once students arrive on campus they are expected to be on campus and in classes until the end of the day.
- Students not in an extra-curricular activity are asked to leave campus promptly at dismissal and not loiter in the halls or school grounds.

Skateboards/Bicycles/Scooters

- Students may NOT skateboard, scooter or bicycle on School District 23 property and are encouraged to wear approved helmets when travelling to and from school.
- Students must walk their bicycles and scooters and carry skateboards once on school property.

Social Behaviours

It is not appropriate for middle year students to display behaviours of a romantic or sexual nature at school. A simple “high five” or “fist bump” is appropriate.

Smoking/Vaping/Drugs/Alcohol and Energy Drinks

Cigarette smoking is a health hazard both for the smoker and anyone in the vicinity of the smoke.

- All middle schools in SD23 are part of a **Drug Free Zone**. This means that there is no tolerance for drugs, cigarettes, e-cigarettes/vapes, or alcohol being used or distributed at school or anywhere within the school's drug-free zone.
- It is illegal for anyone under the age of eighteen to be in possession of cigarettes. This means that smoking is not permitted anywhere within the school, on school grounds or within sight of the school. Students may not smoke at any school sponsored field trip or activity.
- Cigarettes, vapes and other smoking paraphernalia are not permitted at school.
- Springvalley Middle School does not support the consumption of energy drinks – this is a form of self-medicating. Parents are advised that if students bring energy drinks to school they will be confiscated.

RESPONSIBLE STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY DEVICES, SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY, AND DISTRICT NETWORKS

The purpose of using network services and digital technologies while in educational settings is to engage in responsible educational activities. Therefore, the use of personal technology devices, school technologies, and district network services requires students to abide by the school's Code of Conduct and procedures, as well as Central Okanagan Public Schools Policy 486: Student Use of Network Services and Digital Technologies.

Some examples of responsible use with district and personal devices include the following:

- **Act responsibly** when accessing technology and district networks, including the Internet in their school. Ensure that personal use of electronic communications systems neither interferes with, nor distracts from, their learning or the learning of others.
- Use technology equipment and property according to all applicable rules and with care and **respect**.
- Engage in **appropriate use** as directed by school staff. Practice safe online behaviour and report any inappropriate communication (e.g., distribution of information harmful to others or information regarding a potentially dangerous situation that may threaten the safety of others).
- Respect the **safety and privacy of self and others** and do not provide personal contact information about themselves or other students.
- Treat others with **respect and kindness** when using digital devices and network services.
- Respect **resource limits** of the network services and do not engage in activities that jeopardize the integrity, security, or performance of the network.

- Understand the importance of **privacy and security** and take all reasonable precautions when accessing network services and digital technologies.
- Cell phones and other digital technology, including i-pods and other music players, may be brought to school. If a parent deems it important for a student to bring such items, **they are to be left in the student's locker until the end of the day.** Electronics must remain in the student's locker throughout the day, unless a particular teacher asks that the device be brought to a particular class.
- Laser pointers are NOT to be brought to school.

The use of Personal Technology Devices, School Technology, and District Networks is a privilege and usage may be revoked at any time for inappropriate conduct. Schools will not be held responsible for any misplaced, lost, stolen, or broken items brought to school by students. Use of network services and digital technologies which violate the terms outlined in policy and/or the School's Code of Conduct may result in serious consequences including definite or indefinite suspensions and/or police intervention.

STUDENT APPEARANCE

Students are expected to be well groomed and wear clothing appropriate for the activities of the day. The following regulations pertain to the dress of students:

- Clothes must not present a hazard to the student or to others.
- Clothing/jewelry with references to drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, prejudice/racism or profanity is NOT permitted.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. No slippers or socks for example.
- Outside jackets are to be left in lockers. Students are encouraged to use a hoodie in class if they feel chilled.
- Please remember this is a place of work and learning. Dress accordingly.

SUPPORTING STUDENT CONDUCT:

We have developed a three-tiered plan to support SMS students with their behaviour choices. Our approach is collaborative and based on the premise that "kids do well, if they can" (Dr. Ross Greene, 2005). The school will work closely with the family to help support our students to become responsible and compassionate members of our society.

Collaborative Model for Behaviour Intervention



| Steps towards intervention | Identifying Behaviour Choices | Redirecting Behaviour |
|--|---|--|
| Tier 1 School-wide expectations | Ex: Silly, goofy behaviours, running in hallways, littering, language, hands-on, roughhousing, washroom lingering, screaming, cell phone use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School expectations will be taught in class - School expectations will be taught at assemblies - Reminders to stop unacceptable behaviour choices |
| Tier 1 Classroom Expectations | Ex: talking in class, walking out w/o permission, being disengaged, disturbing others, insubordination, coming to class unprepared, tardiness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students and Teachers will co-create classroom expectations - Teacher will remind students of classroom expectations - When behaviours are repeated, teachers will connect with parents – phone, email - For repeated behaviours, student will be sent to the SEL room |
| Tier 2 | Repeated Tier 1 behaviours Skipping class Low level Vandalism Misuse of school property Case-by-case basis Misconduct on school bus Nonresponsive to intervention done till now | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student will go to the SEL Room - Student will be supported with following options: Check-in's & Checkouts, discussions, peer mediation, RWS (reflective workstation), reflective conversation, lunch hour detentions, Calming time for students, In school suspension - Student will develop a behaviour contract before heading back to class |
| Tier 3 | Repeated Tier 2 Bullying/Assault/Fighting/Threats (online/in person) Inappropriate use of technology (social media) Physical aggression Vaping Vandalism Alcohol/ drug Weapons Theft Leaving school grounds without permission | RC support with vaping /drug/alcohol Alternate Y Program (3 full-day program at the YMCA) OSS – Out of School Suspension. The student stays at home. Teachers will supply the learning material ISS - In-school suspension. Students will work out the connections room. Teachers will supply the learning material RWSO – Reflective conversations with SEL TEAM Restorative conversations- students work with SEL TEAM in a group setting to resolve concerns Contracts with the SEL team, admin, teacher, parent Workshop (one counselling session, group discussion with counsellor/SEL teacher; Alternate programs outside of school) |

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

At Springvalley Middle School, our reporting procedures inform parents of:

- What the student can do in relation to the curriculum outlines
- What areas of improvement are required
- What support is available to the student to assist in achieving these goals
- Assessment summaries based on achievement of the Curricular Competencies

Students will receive three formal reporting documents. The dates for these reports will be listed on our calendar in September.

Written comments are included with each report. These comments should provide you with more specific information regarding your child's progress.

Twice per year the school schedules Parent Teacher Conference days as well as Student Led Conferences. However, parents are encouraged to arrange individual or group meetings with teachers to discuss academic and/or personal issues at any time. We would like to encourage you to take advantage of **three-way conferencing**. This is when parents, students and teachers meet to discuss student progress and work together to develop goals for the next term. Studies show that communication between the home and school improves when parents and students are both involved in conferencing.

Springvalley Middle Learning Cycle





EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Springvalley Middle School, students are encouraged to become involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Our staff volunteers their time to sponsor these activities and appreciate any parent support and assistance. Please encourage your child to **GET INVOLVED!** For information on extra-curricular athletics please contact the school Athletic Director or consult the school website www.sms.sd23.bc.ca and click on 'Athletics'.

HOT LUNCH & BREAKFAST FOR LEARNING

- The PAC's Hot Lunch Program is available on Mondays. Please order online at: www.sms.sd23.bc and click on [SMS Hot Lunch Program \(access code SVHL\)](#)
- Breakfast for Learning runs every morning with the help of Community Volunteers and school staff.
- Brown Bag Lunches are available for those families experiencing hardship - please contact our Aboriginal Advocate and/or Receptionist for access to this program.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Your voice at the school level - The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is the officially recognized voice of parents at the school level. The PAC is composed of parents who have students registered in the school. School staff may be invited to meetings. The PAC meets on a regular basis to consider school issues of concern to parents and to organize presentations and topics of interest to parents. Our PAC meetings are held monthly (September to June) beginning at 6:15 p.m. Please check the school's online calendar for specific dates.

The Purpose of the SMS Parent Advisory Council is to communicate with parents about school programs, policies and activities. The PAC has a regular system of communication, which includes a Facebook page, an information bulletin board, information e-mailings to parents, and monthly meetings, which are open to all parents.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

There are many opportunities for parents to become involved in the education process. At SMS PAC fundraising is an important area but certainly not the only one. Any of the following areas would benefit from increased parent involvement:

Breakfast for Learning
Hot Lunch program
Coaching Sports Teams
Assisting Sports Coaches

Drivers for field trips
Planning Committees
PAC Executive

The Springvalley PAC is very involved in all areas of school. The administration, staff and parents are working hard to be equal partners in the education of our children. If you have any questions please contact the PAC by e-mailing the PAC president at smspac@sd23.bc.ca

Check out our school website at www.sms.sd23.bc.ca We update daily!

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