



September 2019

Getting ready to open a new school year is always exciting and always new. We have new class groupings to consider, new students who are joining our school and students will have new teachers and make new friends. As we prepare for students to come to school, we work hard to keep students at the centre of our planning. We remind ourselves at the start of every year that every day, parents entrust us with that which they hold most precious. It is a trust and responsibility that we take very seriously. We intend for, and work toward, each student to come to school with hope and energy for learning each day.

Clearspring Middle School has adopted the Hanover School Division focus of Deeper Learning. What we mean by Deeper Learning has been well summarized by our Superintendent, Mr. Randy Dueck: [T]he phrase Deeper Learning can mean almost anything, what do we mean when we say Deeper Learning? We mean a clear focus on learning those essential skills, dispositions, knowledge and values. We mean more relevance, more rigor, more curiosity, more connections, more questions, more clarity, more community, more preparation for a digital world, and even more adventure. And we mean deeper academic engagement, social engagement, emotional engagement and intellectual engagement. After all of our work on Our Kid we have identified eight deep learning competencies, all eight of which we have identified as essential for "Our Kid" to flourish. To be a Learner, Critical Thinker, Communicator, Collaborator, Literate, Creative, and to exhibit good Citizenship and Character. <http://hsd.ca/deeper-learning/introduction/>

In addition to that, we continue to be a Growth Mindset school, encouraging all of our students to view learning as a journey that will have obstacles, and that these obstacles can be overcome with perseverance and grit.

Clearspring Middle School has made a strong commitment to being the best middle school we can be. We use as our guide sixteen characteristics of a successful middle school as outlined by the Association of Middle Level Educators (AMLE) <http://www.amle.org/AboutAMLE/ThisWeBelieve/tabid/121/Default.aspx#122516-the-16-characteristics>. In addition to that, we have made a promise to our community. We intend to keep our promise, and invite parents to engage with us as we seek to help all students learn at the highest levels possible.

WE PROMISE:

- To teach students, not subjects
- To believe the best, hope for the best, and cheer for the best in every person
- To teach in ways that respond to our students' needs
- To meet students where they are To make learning meaningful
- To be proactive rather than reactive
- To help each student feel valued
- To create an atmosphere that welcomes every student to belong
- To dream big and work hard
- To challenge all students to learn at high levels.



We have several new staff members to introduce:

Ms. Kailyn Dunn Grade 5

Ms. Cassandra Taylor Grade 7

Ms. Meredith Hutchinson Grade 5 & 6 Music, Grade 8 Social Studies

We are grateful for the contributions made by those teachers who left our school in June; Mr. Murray Carter, Ms. Leanne Warkentin, Ms. Kassandra Momotiuk, and Ms. Tess Nesca.

Lunch hour change this year:

Grade 5 and 6 will eat from 12:17 - 12:42, then go outside to play until 1:07. Grade 7 & 8 will go outside from 12:17 - 12:42, then come in to eat until 1:07.

In the event of a school emergency...



Clearspring Middle School has an extensive emergency plan which is intended to guide us through all school emergencies. This plan is made in conjunction with Hanover School Division, and emergency situations are managed in conjunction with Hanover School Division. Parents are asked to review the following guidelines for communication during emergencies.

- a. Please do not call the school or your child's cell phone.
- b. Calling your child's cell phone during an emergency may (depending upon the type of emergency), put them at higher risk by disclosing their location or drawing attention to them. Calling the school will also tie up lines and systems required for communicating with emergency responders and may inhibit our ability to send or receive critical information. We understand and respect your concern, but it is essential that the phone systems be available for emergency communications.
- c. HSD has the ability through our divisional call system to send an automated message to all parents/guardians. For this reason, it is also very important that your child's school has an accurate phone number on file to reach you.
- d. Please do not go to the school to pick up your child – unless requested to do so.
- e. Although your natural instincts in an emergency may be to attend the school, please understand that doing so could impede emergency response services. Going to the school may interfere with emergency crews and school personnel's efforts to deal with the emergency. Extra vehicles and people at the site make the task more difficult.
- f. Be sure to access official and reliable sources of information.
- g. Visit this website (www.hsd.ca) for updated notifications.
- h. Follow the official divisional Twitter account @HanoverSD
- i. Call the HSD Administration Office at 204-326-6471.
- j. Tune into a local radio or television stations. We will work closely with the local media to keep our community informed of the situation.

When your child(ren) are absent please call the office 204-346-9644, email cms@hsd.ca or update through parent portal. If we don't receive notification we will call and/or email to confirm.

We will be using Parent Portal often, please contact the office to set up your account if you haven't already done so. Common uses will include:

- entering and viewing attendance
- view and pay student fees online
- signing permission forms digitally
- electronic report cards
- booking parent teacher meetings
- ability to view class placements in July vs. August
- view student schedules and more



School website www.cms.hsd.ca is the key to communication.

- school calendar sport schedules
- school wide updates
- school plays and concerts
- CMS instagram feed
- learning trip dates and deadlines and more

If there are any changes in your address, phone number, emergency contacts etc please contact the office either in person or by phone/email to update our file.

School fees can be paid to the office, we accept cash or cheque made out to Clearspring Middle School.

Cell Phone at School? Make sure your cell phone contract is signed!

Since the advent of the smart phone a little over a decade ago, parents and schools have been trying to sort out what to do with cell phones. They sometimes seem necessary, they have incredible potential for supporting learning and they are so very handy. On the other hand, they can also lead to significant problems, including distraction from learning. At Clearspring Middle School, we permit students in Grades 6 - 8 to bring cell phones to school. From time to time, students have struggled to manage the phone according to the rules set out by the school and the teacher. When students have a phone at school, we want to work with parents and the student to ensure that the phone does not become a distraction. This year, we are asking all students who bring a phone to school to sign a cell phone contract, and to have their parents sign their contract. This is a way to clearly set out for everyone what the expectations are for phone use at school, and to be clear about how the school will respond. While we are aware that there is no perfect solution, we do want to continue to create a culture that encourages students to learn to use all technology in healthy ways.

Lunch Program Information

Our school provides lunches for students who do not have one. These lunches are made and delivered to the school by Soup's On, the local soup kitchen. From time to time, family circumstances make it difficult to provide a lunch from home. In those cases, we are happy to offer a bag lunch to our students. If your family is going through these circumstances, please contact the school office. 204-346-9644



Last but certainly not least, it has finally arrived! After several years of fundraising, we have a new concrete pad outside. Thanks are due to all of the students and parents who have sold chocolates over the past few years to raise the money for the pad. I also want to thank Elite Redi-Mix for a generous discount on the concrete cost, Kleefeld Construction for the professional installation, and HSD Facilities Director Bob Proulx for managing the project. We look forward to the installation of basketball standards this September, and then many years of school and community use of the court.

Looking forward to a great school year!



Clearspring Middle School

204-346-9644

cms@hsd.ca

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