



# MAGEE SECONDARY SCHOOL

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**28 August 2018**

Welcome Magee grade 8 students, students new to Magee and parents!

We hope that the summer break provided time for you to rest and reflect on your last school year, as well as opportunity to chart a course for achieving your personal best in the upcoming year- with our support and mentorship! As the beginning of the school year arrives you will find various information items enclosed with this letter to help set up a successful school year. All of us at Magee Secondary look forward to sharing with you the numerous and exciting learning possibilities and successes to be experienced over the course of this coming school year, be it academically, athletically, artistically, and socially!

The 2018 – 2019 school year starts on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> with mandatory homeroom periods at the following times (homeroom room locations will be posted in the atrium):

**Homeroom Period for Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12**

- Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 10:45 am

**Homeroom Period for Grade 8's**

- Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
- All grade 8's should meet at 11:00 am in the Rotunda where they will meet their homeroom teachers who will lead the students to their homeroom.
- Grade 8's will learn how to navigate their new school environment from their homeroom teachers and through the leadership of our Peer Counselling 12 Students

**Homeroom Period for ALL STUDENTS in Grades 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12**

- Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:40 am – 8:55 am

**All Students then begin classes (day one) on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am.**

During our homeroom periods teachers take students through school procedures, routines, and policies. The framework that guides decision-making for Magee students, staff, and our school community is Magee's **Student Code of Conduct**- reviewed during these homeroom periods. A '**Student Information Verification Form**' is distributed during the Tuesday homeroom period. Please carefully review this form and make any changes/updates directly onto the form. Please also ensure there is a Parent/Guardian email address listed on the form. The form should be returned by students at the Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> homeroom or to the office in the first week of classes.

During the first week of school students meet their teachers and new classmates; classroom-learning goals and homework expectations are established and reviewed. We encourage you to take time during this important first week to review with your child a program of work habits at school and home that will set him or her up to maximize the opportunities available at Magee.

If needed, further information about the start of the school year is on our **school's website**, <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/magee>. Information about important dates on this year's school calendar are also posted on the school website. The Magee **Student Agenda**, distributed during the homeroom periods, also contains useful information including the Magee Student Code of Conduct and school routines, policies and procedures.

Magee Secondary School teachers have ten **collaborative planning sessions** spaced throughout the year. Collaborative planning sessions occur either in the morning or in the afternoon. On days of the morning sessions, students have a later start to their school day with classes beginning at 9:45 am. On days of afternoon sessions, students will be dismissed at 2:03 pm. This collaborative time allows important planning for student programs to take place on a regular basis for teams of teachers.

As you know, prompt, regular **attendance** to class is an essential ingredient for your child's success at school: Please try to schedule any important dental and medical appointments, etc., outside of class time.

Magee students had numerous **opportunities for success** last year. Our senior graduating class earned hundreds of thousands of dollars in entrance scholarships both locally and internationally. Our students excelled with their citizenship skills both at the school and within the greater community contributing well over 10,000 hours of volunteer time. And, athletically, many of our school teams went on to achieve high standings both in the city and provincially.

Our school's **growth plan** continues to place a strong emphasis on increasing student engagement, initiative and leadership within a culture of care and support. Our school goals are:

- (1) To provide opportunities for each student to experience growth and success
- (2) To foster global citizenship and environmental stewardship
- (3) To increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students.

Over the year, through our professional (ProD) days, above noted collaboration time, and professional reading groups and self-study we will continue to broaden our expertise and practice of strategies that best support and meet the needs of all of our learners and that allow us to address our school's goals.

Magee uses **School-Cash**, an accounting system that facilitates online payment of school fees. We are sure that you will find School-Cash easy to use, and we appreciate your help in reducing the amount of paper our school consumes. To register or learn more about School-Cash, please visit their website at <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com>. We look forward to using this system with you, and we trust that you will find the portal useful. School-Cash is available for parent registration as of September 5<sup>th</sup>; school and supplemental fees will be collected through School-Cash starting the second week of classes. Parents wishing to pay fees by cheque or cash please do so as of October 1<sup>st</sup>. For information on **school and supplemental fees** please refer to our **school's website**, <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/magee>.

Recognizing that some families are unable to afford all school fees the Vancouver School District does have a **Financial Hardship Policy** which stipulates that no school age student will be denied an opportunity to participate in a required course, class or program because of financial hardship. Parents and guardians unable to pay some or all of a school fee are invited to speak to their child's teacher, school counsellor, and/or administrator. (Financial hardship application forms are available through the school office to assist

with this process.) All financial hardship applications and discussions are confidential. Ways to address financial hardship requests include: fee waiver, partial payment, payment by instalment, and/or fundraising activities to reduce overall costs.

**Communication** of school news and events is done primarily through email with our 'Magee News' ebulletin. If you have any questions for your child's teacher or grade counsellor please contact them directly.

As an administrator I place a strong emphasis on collaborative teamwork and distributed leadership alongside my professional colleagues. I value immensely the support and mentorship that I get from my colleagues and their professional associations and unions. This approach includes parents in my leadership structure formalised through your Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). I look forward to connecting with parents at the **first PAC meeting** on 2 October from 6:30 to 9:00pm in our second floor Library Learning Commons.

Finally, thank-you for your support for public education and for choosing Magee!

Respectfully

*Dr. Andrew Schofield*  
*Principal*

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