



+1 (250) 478-5535



cml@sd62.bc.ca



centremountainlellum.web.sd62.bc.ca



Hello Centre Mountain Lellum Families,

Aug. 24, 2023

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year at Centre Mountain Lellum. We hope you are all having a wonderful summer and are getting ready to return to school. The office will be open again on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2023. If you have any questions, please call or email the school and we will be happy to assist.

Centre Mountain Lellum Start-Up for September 2023-24

Over the last few years, we have moved to a staggered start for our students to begin the school year. We realize this schedule may not be convenient for some families, but we feel this staggered start time is best for students of a large middle school, and it has been very successful over the past few years. We have not had confirmation that buses will be available for all trips, but we will keep everyone posted as soon as we hear from transportation.

So, for week one, the schedule will be as follows:

Tuesday morning, September 5 – Grade 6 students only. Students will arrive for an 8:40am start time and will stay at school until 11:30am. All students will meet on the turf field behind the school. Bus schedule is yet to be determined, so parents may want to arrange rides for the first day. However, we do know bus transportation is provided to and from school on Tuesday, so it would be a great day for our new grade 6 bus students to try the bus on day one since it will only be grade 6 students riding that day. No school for Grade 6 students on Wednesday, Sept. 6.

Wednesday morning, September 6 – Grade 7 students only. Students will arrive for an 8:40am start time and will stay at school until 11:30am. All students will meet on the turf field behind the school. Bus transportation will be provided in the morning, but it may not be available for the 11:30am pick-up. We will update you on this as we get closer to September. Parents may want to organize rides for the 11:30am pick up time from school.

Wednesday afternoon, September 6 – Grade 8 students only. Students will arrive for a 12:30pm start time and will stay at school until 2:40pm. All students will meet on the turf field behind the school. Bus transportation will be provided for the after-school pick-up, but it may not be available for the 12:30pm drop-off time. We will update you on this as we get closer to September. Parents may want to organize rides for the 12:30pm start time.



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Thursday and Friday, September 7 & 8. Full day for all students. School will begin at 8:40am and will end at 2:41pm. This is the regular start and end times for our students Monday to Friday. On Thursday, Sept. 7, we will be asking all students to meet on the back field in the morning.

The name of our school

We are very fortunate to be gifted the name of our school by Beecher Bay Nation – Centre Mountain Lellum Middle School. Lellum (Lay/Lum) meaning ‘House’ and ‘The idea of community, where we raise our children’. Chief Russell Chipps said, ‘To me it means a place of coming together’. This name means a lot to us and we are doing our best to honour the name and not shorten the name to Lellum, Centre Mountain, or CML. It is so easy to shorten a name or use parts of the name, but we will be using the full name and we would like our community to do the same. Please help us by using ‘Centre Mountain Lellum’ when referring to our school.

Thank you.

Parking/Drop-off/Pick-up

Parent pick-up and drop-off is in the lower driveway only.

Our priority is to keep all staff, students and families safe while parking or dropping off/ picking up your child. We will be asking all students to use the sidewalk in the morning and after school and our cycling students will walk their bikes along the lower sidewalk until they can safely cycle on the road. Last year, it seemed to go well, but we do get a back-up of vehicles heading out to Constellation Ave at the end of the day. If you are not in a rush to pick students up right after school, you may want to wait a few minutes and pick your child up later once the traffic is less of an issue. It seems to be very busy for the first 10-15 minutes after the bell.

Visitors to our school. If you need to park in order to come into our school, there is staff/visitor parking lot at the end of the lower loop. This is also a staff parking lot, so we cannot have parents waiting for their child or dropping their child off in this space. We are very fortunate to have so many parking spaces available on our school property.

There will be 4 accessible parking spaces in the lower staff parking lot. Right now, we do not have any staff who need to use these accessible spaces, so if there are any families with accessibility needs, and you need to come into the school, you are welcome to use the accessibility spaces in the lower lot.



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The upper driveway and parking lot is strictly for buses and staff only. There is no space for parent parking or for student drop-off and pick-up. This is a very busy area and buses cannot make the loop if parents are parked in the upper loop. There are signs out front to direct all visitors. Thank you for your help and support with the pick-up/drop-off loop.

Cell Phones at Centre Mountain Lellum

We do not allow students to use cell phones within the bookends of the day. All students will be expected to leave their phone in their backpack which will be safely stored in their locker. If you need to contact your child between 8:40am – 2:41pm, please contact our office. There is also a phone set up in the office for students to use if they need to contact you. Please discuss this expectation with your child in preparation for this policy.

School Supplies

A school supply list is posted on our website under “Links”. Students will not have to bring their school supplies on the first day, but we suggest they bring something to write with. Advisory teachers will be going through the school supply list with your child, so if anything is missing, you may receive notification from the teacher.

Locks

All returning students should have kept their combination lock from last year and should bring this lock with them for the first full day of school on Thursday, Sept. 7. If they cannot find this lock, you will have to purchase a new lock from the school. If you have the lock, but just forgot the combination, we can find the combination by using the serial number on the back of the lock.

All new students will be given a school combination lock to use on their lockers. We will be charging \$14.00 for these locks and students will keep these locks with the hope of using them for the next 3 years at Centre Mountain Lellum Middle School.

Transportation

All bus information will be posted on the district website and all families who have registered and paid for the bus will be receiving information from transportation soon. Buses will enter and exit the Centre Mountain Lellum property off Constellation Ave. Students will be dropped off and picked up right in front of our main entrance on the upper bus loop.



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Student Fees

Payment for locks, athletic fees, yearbooks, grade 8 leaving celebration, lost textbooks/library books and field trips will be done through the online payment structure. Please refer to the instructions for online payment on our school website.

School fees can be paid through the KEV School Cash System at

<https://sd62.schoolcashionline.com>

- After consenting to School Cash Online, wait 24 hrs. before logging in and attaching your children.
- Create account login/password by choosing "Get Started Today".
- Students are encouraged to create an account as well.
- You will need to know the student's PEN number (on the report card) in order to complete this process.

Online Student Consent Portal

Parents & Guardians - Please visit <https://consent.sd62.bc.ca/apps/OnlineConsent> to provide and/or review consents for your children.

Consents include:

- General Consent for local fieldtrips
- Google Apps For Education (G Suite)
- Internet Access
- Media Release
- Na'tsa'maht Indigenous Education
- School Cash Online
- SpacesEDU
- Web-based Applications
- MyBlueprint

Medical Alerts

Please inform your classroom teacher or school office if your child has any medical conditions of which the school should be aware. If your child is anaphylactic or diabetic, you will work with the school to update your child's anaphylaxis action plan or medical action plan. If your child requires medication during school hours, you will be asked to complete a medication administration form. Please email cml@sd62.bc.ca if you have questions regarding this.



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Class Placement

Information regarding student placement will not be available until the end of next week. We have had many new student registrations over the summer, so we are doing our best to accept these students and have a timetable ready to go for all students for the first day of school. In order to maintain equal classes, a few changes may need to be made before we finalize the class lists.

The process of building cohort classes is very complex and very time consuming. Our class placement committee spent many hours building equal cohorts for each grade. Unlike the Grade 6 students, we tend to spend less time ensuring that our Grade 7 and 8 students will be placed with their best friend. We feel our current students have been at Centre Mountain Lellum for a year, so they will know many Centre Mountain Lellum students and there will be familiar faces in all classes.

In May/June of last year, our committee collected information from previous teachers, and we had conversations about each child. When those conversations were completed, our committee began the process of building classes. In order to balance all the classes, we looked at the following criteria: class size, academic ability, designations, behaviours, learning styles, personalities, and the number of band students in each class.




We did not ask parents to provide input for class placement. With over 600 students in our middle school, we just cannot provide the time to receive input from each family. More importantly, we would not be able to grant each request, so the process would appear unfair to many. At this point, if we make a change for one student, we will have to make a change for others. Also, when we make a change for one student, we then affect the balance of other cohorts and the change creates a huge domino effect.

So, at this point, we will not be making any further changes to student placement unless we add or lose a cohort class. We really appreciate your understanding and support in this area.

Centre Mountain Lellum Website

We will be updating the Centre Mountain Lellum website over the next couple of weeks. Please become familiar with our website and visit it regularly throughout the school year.



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A few dates to mark in your calendars:

Non-instructional Day – Monday, Sept. 18

Meet the Teacher/Parent Resource Evening – Thursday, Sept. 21 (5:00pm start time)

Photo Day - Tuesday, Sept 26

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – Monday, Oct. 2

Thanksgiving – Monday, Oct. 9

Non-Instructional Day – Friday, Oct. 20

Photo Re-take Day – Thursday, Nov. 9

No school for Remembrance Day – Monday, Nov. 13

Early Dismissal (11:30am) – Thursday, Nov. 23 (Student-Led Conferences for Parents in PM)

Non-Instructional Day – Friday, Nov. 24

Last day of school before the holidays – Friday, Dec. 22

If you need further information, have questions, concerns or ideas, please call the school office. Our clerical staff is amazing and they will be happy to assist you in any way. The office will be open again for parents and students on Tuesday, August 29, 2023.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Darren Russell, Principal

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