

L.A. Matheson Secondary Summer Newsletter 2018

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**PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE**

Welcome to LA Matheson Secondary and the 2018-2019 School Year!

I hope that everyone has enjoyed a summer of relaxation and renewal.

On behalf of the entire staff, I am happy to welcome everyone to LA Matheson Secondary. I am delighted to be your new Principal. I have been a secondary administrator since 1995 (Tamanawis) all in the Surrey School District. Most recently, I was Earl Marriott Secondary's principal for seven years, and the last four years I was honoured with the opportunity to start up the Surrey Academy of Innovative Learning (SAIL). SAIL was an excellent opportunity of creating a school that prepares students for the modern world.

I am looking forward to bringing all of my past learnings to LA Matheson. I am very excited about this upcoming year, as it will see all of us embark on an extraordinary learning journey.

LA Matheson will have over 20 new teachers and three new administrators (myself included) joining the staff. Many of our teaching staff have attended professional development and have come into school to work on their programs to ensure that your child will have an excellent learning experience.

The summer season is ending, and now it is time to begin a new and exciting year at LA Matheson. This summer newsletter is full of information to make the return to school a positive experience. Please take the time to read it carefully as it has all the information you need for the first few weeks of school and especially procedures for September 4, 2018.

Secondary education in British Columbia, and around the world, is witnessing a remarkable change. The new provincial graduation program will start the implementation process this year (grade 10). This new graduation program is an excellent new province-wide curriculum that will help prepare students for the 21st-century modern world.

We, the teaching staff, will revisit our school plan and we will develop 2019-20 inquiry questions throughout this coming year. We will be seeking and relying upon parents at the Parent Advisory Council to offer feedback as we navigate the province-wide change.

Parents, we need you to get involved in all aspects of our school, including the Parent Advisory Council. Your involvement is welcomed and necessary to keep us moving forward in preparing your children for the modern world. Staff will continue to develop new programs, inquiry lessons and assessment strategies to build our deep learning environment.

**Come join our** [**PAC**](https://legacy.surreyschools.ca/schools/lamath/Parents/PAC/Pages/default.aspx)**!**

Meetings are at 7 pm

in our Learning Commons

on the following dates.

Sept 20 Feb 21

Oct 25 Mar 14

Nov 22 Apr 18

Dec 20 May 16

Jan 24 Jun 13

**Stay Informed!**

**Use our** [**Student Information Portal**](https://www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do)

You can log in to the portal on our web page through the “Parents” tab.

**Use our** [**LAM School App**](https://mathesonmustangs.appazur.com/app/)

All important information and events will be pushed out daily on our LA Matheson App!

Download the App from the App Store by

Searching: MATHESON MUSTANGS

**Use our** [**Web Page**](https://legacy.surreyschools.ca/schools/lamath/Pages/default.aspx)

[https://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/lamath/Pages/default.aspx](https://legacy.surreyschools.ca/schools/lamath/Pages/default.aspx)

**[School Calendar](https://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/lamath/Calendar/calendar.aspx)**

Sept 4 School Opens

Sept 14 Student Fees Deadline

Sept 20 Photo Day

Sept 20 Gr. 8 Parent Meeting 6 pm

Sept 24 Pro-D Day

Sept 27 Gr. 12 Parent Night

**PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE (continued)**

The LA Matheson staff wants to give your child the best learning experience possible. To provide a sound learning experience for your child, we need to have direct communication between teacher, student, and parent.

With that end in mind, we want to ensure that you and child have downloaded The Matheson App (Matheson Mustangs App). We ask that all students and parents download the App to help with better communication.

I want to extend a very warm welcome to our returning students, all students new to LA Matheson, and a very special welcome to our new grade 8 class.

I want to welcome the Class of "2023". Our new grade eight students are always very excited about the move to secondary school, and we want you to know we are excited about having you at LA Matheson Secondary. I would also like to express my congratulations to you for completing your Elementary Education and to share my best wishes for successful completion of secondary school.

LA Matheson Secondary has a lot to offer in academic and elective courses as well as athletic and co-curricular activities. I hope that each of you will take advantage of these opportunities and become part of the tradition that has made LA Matheson Secondary such an outstanding school.

An exclusive "welcome back" is reserved for this year's graduating class - The Class of 2019.

As the graduating class, you have a unique and vital role to play in the life of our school. You can, and should, provide leadership and a sense of purpose to the rest of the student body. Make this year a most positive experience - both for yourselves as individuals and for our school. We will expect nothing less. As individuals, you have tremendous potential. Study hard and enjoy your final year! It will be up to you to make it a great one.

To ensure a successful start to the new school year, there are many things you can do:

* Read this newsletter information carefully.
* Pay attention to the information given to you in homeroom and your classes.
* Use our App and be familiar with its features.
* Follow and demonstrate our code of conduct: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, Be Prepared.
* Be on time for every class and be prepared to learn.
* Take advantage of all of the resources that LA Matheson has to offer.
* Ask questions.

Our Newsletter, “Matheson Messenger”, is published throughout the year. It will be available online and will be emailed to you directly. Parents are encouraged to visit our website regularly and sign up for an online subscription to the updates (http://bit.ly/2MN7l2L). You will find that our website is updated almost daily so please bookmark this page. This bookmark is imperative for a successful year for your child. If, at any point, you have questions about any aspect of the school or our programs, please do not hesitate to contact me, by phone or email (johnston\_p@surreyschools.ca) or any of the administrative staff.

Sincerely,

Peter Johnston, Principal

Twitter: @PeterJohnston36

**ARE YOU COMING?**

If you’re not planning to attend L.A. Matheson in September, please call the office at (604) 588-3418 and provide us with the following information:

Student Name and Student Number

Where your child will be going

Your contact information

**YOUR SCHEDULE – The Portal**

Your schedule will be available for viewing after August 21st. To view your timetable, log on to the Student Information Portal. All students in grade 9 – 12 now have access to their personal student information through the student information portal. You can access the portal on our web page through the “[Parent](https://legacy.surreyschools.ca/schools/lamath/Parents/Pages/default.aspx) --> Parent Resources” tabs.

Students in grade 9 – 12 have their own login ID and password. Students who have forgotten their password, can reset in online through the student portal. ***IMPORTANT NOTE:  Three failed attempts at inputting your password will lock you out of the system.***

For easy access, once you log on and see your schedule, you are encouraged to take a screen shot of it and save it in your device or print it.

Grade 8 students will get their schedule on the first day of school

**FIRST WEEK SCHEDULE**

Tue, Sept. 4 Gr 9 – 12 10:00 am Homeroom

 Gr 8 12:00 pm Small Gym

Wed, Sept. 5 Day 3 Periods 3  4  1  1  2

Thu, Sept. 6 Day 4 Periods 4  3  2  2  1

Fri, Sept. 7 Day 1 Periods 1  2  3  4

**GRADE 8 STUDENTS**

***On Tuesday, September 4 at 12:00 pm, all grade 8 students report to the small gym for a welcome assembly and to get their schedules.*** Students will then go to their homerooms and be dismissed at 1:20 PM.

**GRADE 9 - 12 STUDENTS**

***On Tuesday, September 4 at 10:00 am, all grade 9 -12 students will report to their Period 1 class (homeroom)*** and will be dismissed at 11:00 am. Students’ Period 1 class homeroom is available on MyEdBC.

**GRADE 8 ORIENTATION AND BBQ**

Our grade 8 orientation to high school and welcome BBQ will be on Wednesday August 29th.  It will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at approximately 1:00 p.m. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes as we plan to do a lot of moving around. There will be a tour of the school and some team building activities. At the end of the event, your Principals will BBQ hotdogs (meat and veggie options will be available) for you to enjoy.

**TIMETABLE CHANGES – Grade 9 – 12 only**

Counsellors will be available beginning August 27 to assist students who do not have a complete timetable or require changes.  Changes will only be made for graduation requirements, adjustments because of summer school completion courses, entrance requirements for post-secondary or to balance semester workload. ***Please attend on your assigned day only.  Elective course changes will not be made or considered at this time.***

**COUNSELLOR AUGUST AVAILABLILTY**

Monday, August 27 9:00 - 11:30 am Grade 12 12:30 – 2:00 pm Grade 9

Tuesday, August 28 9:00 – 11:00 am Grade 11

 12:00 – 2:00 pm Grade 10

Ms. Puri Alpha A - G

Ms. McRae H - O

Ms. Sandhu P – Z

**STUDENT FEES**

For detailed information about student fees and optional enhancements to programs, see our web page “[Parent](https://legacy.surreyschools.ca/schools/lamath/Parents/StudentFees/Pages/default.aspx)” link **OR see detailed instructions on last page.**

You can now pay student fees online. The [Pay Fees Online](https://legacy.surreyschools.ca/schools/lamath/Parents/StudentFees/Pages/default.aspx) link is located in the Parent section of our web page. Please note that the paying fees online system for the 2018-2019 school year will be open on August 22nd.

We are encouraging everyone to pay their student fees online, but for those of you who are unable to do this, please pay your student fees at the office with cash or cheque before school, at lunch or after school after September 5th.

***Please note that student locker combinations and student event activities will only be granted once the student fee has been paid***. The deadline for paying school fees is September 14, 2018

**LOCKER ASSIGNMENT**

Locker distribution for grades 9 - 12 for next year will be done through our School App. Through our App, students will open the locker link and follow the directions to sign up and choose a locker. Grade 8 students will be assigned lockers through their semester one homeroom class.

***Note that all student fees must be paid before a locker combination will be given out.*** Students wishing to use lockers during PE need to bring a second lock to use for the PE lockers.

**STUDENT INFORMATION VERIFICATION**

***During the first week, you will get your student information verification form. Please review this carefully for accuracy.***

If your address, telephone number or emergency contact information has changed, please make changes on the form and return it to the office as soon as possible. It is important to have all this information updated in case of an emergency.

***Important: If your child has a medical condition of which the school should be aware of please notify the school office right away.***

**SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES & BELL SCHEUDLE**

Our School [Closure Dates and Bell Schedule](https://legacy.surreyschools.ca/schools/lamath/About/Hours/Pages/default.aspx) can be found on our website.

For new parents and students, please note that our Friday bell schedule has the first class starting at 9:30 am. The week is structured this way to allow teachers to meet every Friday morning to work in their professional learning teams.

**STAY INFORMED**

Use our “[**MATEHSON MUSTANGS**](https://mathesonmustangs.appazur.com/app/)**” School App** to keep up to date on all important events and information. Information will be pushed daily out on our App. Our App can be found at the App store by searching Matheson Mustangs.



Use our [**STUDENT INFORMATION PORTAL**](https://www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do) to get up to date information about your child’s attendance, and view report cards. You can access the Student Information Portal through our web site on the “[Parents](https://legacy.surreyschools.ca/schools/lamath/Parents/Pages/default.aspx)” page.

Use our [**WEB PAGE**](https://legacy.surreyschools.ca/schools/lamath/Pages/default.aspx) to access all relevant school policies and school related information. On our website, you will find things such as…

* School Fees & Supplies
* Safety Procedures and Protocols
* Student Absence Procedures
* Extra Curricular Activities
* And much more

**PSST – Protecting Surrey Schools Together**

Ready to take action? If you’ve seen or heard something, let us know. Is someone or something bothering you or your friends at school?  The PSST Report it form is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Make your school safe, in just a few clicks.

<https://www.psst-bc.ca/>

The website, launched in September 2005, has proven beneficial in keeping our schools and children safe.

**[School Calendar](https://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/lamath/Calendar/calendar.aspx)**

***2018*** September 4 School Opens

 14 Student Fees Deadline

 20 Photo Day

 20 Grade 8 Parent Night at 6:00 pm

& PAC meeting at 7pm

 24 Non-Instructional Day

 27 Grade 12 Parent Night

October 8 Thanksgiving Day (school closed)

 15-18 Communicating Student Learning Week

16 Parent Teacher Interviews

17 Photo Retake Day

 19 Grad Parent Meeting #2 – 10:00 a.m.

#3 - 2 p.m.

 19 Non-Instructional Day

25 PAC Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

November 9 Non-Instructional Day

 12 Remembrance Day (school closed)

14 Take Your Kids to Work Day

15 Grad Parent Meeting #4- 6:00pm

 22 PAC Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

 29 Early Dismissal

December 5 Report Cards Available online

20 PAC Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

21 Last day of school before Winter Break

***2019*** January 7 School reopens after Winter Break

24 PAC Meeting- 7:00p.m

 14-25 Graduation Photos (Artona Studio)

 25 Last day of Semester 1 classes (all grades)

 28 Semester 2 begins

February 6 Report Cards Available online

18 Family Day (school closed)

 21 PAC Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

 22 Non-Instructional Day

 TBA Gr. 7 Parent Info Night – 6:00 p.m.

March 4-8 Communicating Student Learning Week

5 Parent Teacher Interviews- Early Dismissal

14 PAC Meeting -7:00pm

15 Last day of classes before Spring Break

 18 Spring Break Begins (school closed)

April 1 School Reopens

 17 Diggin’ the Roots

 18 PAC Meeting at 7pm

 19-22 Good Friday, Easter Monday (school closed)

24 Early Dismissal

 30 Report Cards Available online

May 3 Non-Instructional Day

 16 PAC Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

 20 Victoria Day (school closed)

 27 Non-Instructional Day

June TBA Core Competency Reflection Week

13 PAC Meeting at 7:00pm

 TBA Yearbook Distribution & BBQ

 21 Last day of class

24 Commencement

27 Parent Tea & Grad Banquet

 28 School Closes (Administrative Day)

