



WELCOME



SEPTEMBER 2017

Welcome! I am very much looking forward to getting to know your child and helping him/her adjust to middle school. I'm also excited to see your child's growth in his/her skills as well as learning throughout the coming year. I would like to take a moment to explain some of our class routines.

CORE 7

In our Core 7 classroom, we will be covering all of the academic courses which include Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Students will be with me for all of the morning or all of the afternoon. For the remaining part of the day, students will attend their other courses and elective courses.

For the first week, we will be settling in and getting to know each other. I understand that many of our grade 7 students will likely be feeling anxious about starting at a new school. Thus, the first week will roll along at a slower pace while we get organized, leaving the much needed flexibility to help out any of our 7's that are feeling overwhelmed. In our class, we will be going over the class outline, figuring out timetables, getting lockers and school supplies sorted out, working on team building skills, making bookmarks for books, and working on our cover page for our "BRONCS" binders (BRONCS stands for **B**right **S**tudents **W**ho **A**re **R**eady to **L**earn, **O**rganized, **N**eat, **C**apable and **S**uccessful).

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

This year, Brock Middle School is encouraging our Grade 7's to purchase basic supplies for Core classes through the school as this ensures consistency and ready availability. The fee for these supplies is \$30 (This includes: loose leaf paper, pens, pencils, erasers, glue sticks, pencil crayons, work books, ruler, and subject dividers. Students will also have access to calculators, scissors and construction paper). In addition to the basic supplies students are required to have:

- one 1" Binder (preferably with a plastic flap inside the cover and it must have a clear sleeve on the outside to slip a cover page into). This small binder will be the "Broncs" binder used as an agenda, for newsletters, and to take homework home.
- one 2" ring binder to be used for all core subjects. Preferably a "D ring" binder with locking rings. This binder will stay in our Core Classroom.
- one pencil case.
- one combination lock (may also be purchased at the office for \$6)
- one backpack large enough to hold supplies

It would be extremely helpful if students had supplies in class for Monday September 11th. Thank-you for your cooperation with respect to supplies.

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Because student lockers are downstairs and our classroom is upstairs, students will leave their 2" Core Subjects binder in our classroom. They will bring a backpack to class with their BRONCS binder and pencil case. Students are also welcome to bring a water bottle and healthy snack to class. I encourage students to wear layers to class but leave coats in their lockers. With students coming to class prepared, this should alleviate students needing to run to their lockers for supplies and/or snacks.

Once we are organized (likely during the 2nd week), I will assign textbooks for the core subjects and we will begin our studies. These textbooks will be kept on the shelves in our classrooms along with the Core Binders. The textbooks will only go home if a student needs them for homework or study purposes. They will be signed out to the students through our library system, so if students lose them, they will be required to pay for them. Students will not be allowed to lend or share textbooks in our class. They need to have their own, and each textbook will be marked with the student's name.

AGENDA BOOKS AND HOMEWORK

Students will complete agenda pages in their BRONCS binders at the end of our Core classes for the day. They will record important reminders, upcoming quizzes/tests, events and due assignments/homework. The goal is to have students effectively use their agenda for short and long term planning, as well as keeping parents informed. Homework will usually consist of home reading, math fact practice, studying for quizzes/tests and finishing incomplete assignments. Agendas will be checked periodically.

Home Reading: a goal of reading 15 or more minutes, 4 × a week is great.

Math Practice: Flashcards, games, skills books, math websites are all great extra ways to practice Math Facts.

TEAMWORK

Families are a vital part of a successful teaching team. I look forward to being able to meet a number of families. We will be having a meet the teacher night on Monday September 18th from 5 - 7pm.

Parent/Teacher Interviews are scheduled for Tuesday October 17th from 2 - 3 and 6 - 8. Please feel free to call me or e-mail me along our journey although I do prefer e-mail. My e-mail address is

khill@sd73.bc.ca and the school phone number is 250-376-1232. In addition, I have a class webpage:

<http://brockrockz.weebly.com/> (This webpage is linked off of the Brock Middle School homepage).

Students will have access to our Google Classroom where many assignments will be posted.

I will also be using a communication tool called "Remind". This tool allows me to send quick text messages to both students and parents. Please see the attached instructions. Please do sign up as this is a fantastic way to keep in touch.

I am looking forward to working with your child this year and creating a positive, supportive classroom that will encourage success.

Sincerely,

Mrs. K. Hill

STUDENT INFO

Child's Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Birthday: _____

Mother's/Guardians Name: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Father's/Guardians Name: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Siblings? Names and Age: _____

Child's Allergies/Health Concerns: _____

Tell me about your child's strengths and special abilities: _____

Tell me about your child's weaknesses and fears: _____

Tell me about your child's experiences at school last year: _____

Does your child have any thoughts, concerns about school this year? _____

Is your child reading often? How does he/she feel about reading? _____

What are your expectations for school this year? _____

Tell me anything else you think I should know _____

CORE 7 OUTLINE

The New "2016" BC curriculum refers to "Big Ideas" which are what students are expected to understand and give examples of by the end of the course.

LANGUAGE ARTS 7 - BIG IDEAS:

- Language and text can be a source of creativity and joy.
- Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.
- People understand text differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives.
- Texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed.
- Questioning what we hear, read, and view, contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.

The focus of Language Arts 7 content will include: oral language, paragraphing, language varieties, sentence structure, grammar, language conventions, reading and oral language strategies, meta-cognitive strategies, writing processes, literary elements, literary devices, elements of non-fiction texts, techniques of persuasion and form, function, and genre of texts.

MATH 7 - BIG IDEAS:

- Numbers can be represented in many forms and reflect different relationships.
- Numeracy helps us to see patterns, communicate ideas, and solve problems.
- Patterns allow us to see relationships and develop generalizations.
- Geometry and measurement empower us to make meaning of the world.
- We can apply mathematics to inquiry questions and use it to communicate information and data.
- Data enables us to draw conclusions and make predictions in an unstable world.

The focus of Math 7 content will include: using logic and patterns to solve games and puzzles, operations with integers, multiplication and division to 100, the relationship between decimals, fractions, and percents, classifying prime and composite numbers, linear relations using expressions, tables, and graphs, two-step equations with whole number coefficients, constants, and solutions, circumference and area of circles, volume of cylinders, Cartesian graphing, circle graphs, probability, and financial literacy using percents.

SCIENCE 7 - BIG IDEAS

- The theory of evolution by natural selection provides an explanation for the diversity and survival of living things.
- Elements consist of one type of atom and compounds consist of atoms of different elements chemically combined.
- The electromagnetic force produces both electricity and magnetism.
- Earth and its climate have changed over geological time.

The focus of Science 7 content will be explored through: questioning and predicting; planning and conducting investigations; processing and analyzing data and information; evaluating findings; application and innovation of ideas; and communicating ideas.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7 - BIG IDEAS:

- Geographic conditions shaped the emergence of civilizations.
- Religious and cultural practices that emerged during this period have endured and continue to influence people.
- Increasing complex societies required new systems of laws and government.
- Economic specialization and trade networks can lead to conflict and cooperation between societies.

The focus of Social Studies 7 content will include: anthropological origins of humans; human responses to particular geographic challenges and opportunities, including climates, landforms, and natural resources; features and characteristics of civilizations and factors that lead to their rise and fall; origins, core beliefs, narratives, practices, and influences of religions, including at least one indigenous to the Americas; scientific, philosophical, and technological developments; interactions and exchanges between past civilizations and cultures, including conflict, peace, trade, expansion, and migration; and social, political, legal, governmental, and economic systems and structures, including at least one indigenous to the Americas.

EVALUATION

Evaluation will take place in a variety of different ways including oral discussion, tests, quizzes, projects, assignments, and will be done holistically, based on "not meeting", "approaching minimal expectations", "minimally meeting", "adequately meeting", "meeting", or "exceeding expectations". Weighting will be based on outcome/skills as well as assessment tools (quizzes and tests). A term grade will be assigned to show student progress for each term and the final mark will be an average of all four terms.

Effort marks will be determined based on Brock Middle School Effort Marks Grid.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Be on time, on task and prepared to learn EVERYDAY #nofreedays
2. RESPECT the teacher, the classroom and other students #benice
3. Be RESPONSIBLE for your own learning #nocheating #workhard
4. CLEAN UP after yourself and your peers #notyourmom
5. Keep all personal electronics PUT AWAY #onlywithpermission #notexting #notweeting #nopictures

SPECIAL NOTE FOR PARENTS

Not only is regular attendance a legal requirement, it is **also a major factor contributing to a student's success**. Parents are asked to call the school if your child will be absent or send a written note to excuse your child from school. Students who are away for more than two days need to have parents/guardians contact the school for a homework request which can then be picked up at the main office.

✂ Cut at line Above ✂

Parents/Guardians,

It is important to keep those at home aware of work and classroom activities. Students, please discuss the course outline with your parents/guardians and have your parent/guardian sign and return the "Student Info Sheet" along with this part of the sheet (cut at line above) by the end of the first week.

Student's Name: _____ (please print clearly)

Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date