

Marie Sharpe Elementary Student and Family Handbook



2024-2025

Principal: Kelly Glen

kelly.glen@sd27.bc.ca

At Marie Sharpe, we pride ourselves on providing a safe and inclusive place for students to learn and grow as a community. We strive to further our learning as educators and take pride in the effort put forward to learn from experts in the field whether that be other educators or you the families. Without the commitment of our families, and the willingness of parents and caregivers to join us in the education process, our jobs could not be done.

Attendance

Right from kindergarten, regular attendance is essential for both the academic and social growth of our students. We have high expectations for our students here at Marie Sharpe, and regular attendance is part of that. We want the best for our students and know that being at school every day has a huge impact on future success. Current research shows that students who miss just 10% of the school year (that equates to about 18 days in the school year) are at risk for not only falling behind in the current academic year but also withdrawing from social connections at school. We are working hard at Marie Sharpe to support students and families with regular attendance. We also know that getting our kids to school can be difficult some mornings so please let our staff know how we can support you.

Bell Times

Instruction Begins	Recess	Lunch	End of Day
9:00	10:35-10:50	12:10-12:55	3:00

Staff Contact Info

Staff Member	Position	Email
Kelly Glen	Principal	kelly.glen@sd27.bc.ca
Dancing Water Sandy	Vice Principal/ Prep Teacher	dancingwater.sandy@sd27.bc.ca
Adrianna Durrant	Secretary	adrianna.durrant@sd27.bc.ca
Jennifer Reedman	Learning Support	jennifer.reedman@sd27.bc.ca
Jessica Katsura	Learning Support/Library	jessica.katsura@sd27.bc.ca
Jeremy Parkin	Grade 5/6	jeremey.parkin@sd27.bc.ca
Bal Uppal	Grade 5/6	bal.shergill-uppal@sd27.bc.ca
Robyn Parker	Grade 5/6 (Fridays)	robyn.parker@sd27.bc.ca
Erin Page	Grade 4/5	erin.page@sd27.bc.ca
Natalie Craig	Grade 4/5	natalie.craig@sd27.bc.ca
Christy Campbell	Grade 3	christy.campbell@sd27.bc.ca
Alice Hird	Grade 2/3	alice.hird@sd27.bc.ca
Stephanie Cowan	Grade 1/2	stephanie.cowan@sd27.bc.ca
Kaarina Fichtner	Grade 1/2	kaarina.fichtner@sd27.bc.ca
Tanya Isnardy	Kindergarten/Grade 1	tanya.insardy@sd27.bc.ca
Kacie Young	Kindergarten	kacie.young@sd27.bc.ca
Sandra Scott	School Counsellor	sandra.scott@sd27.bc.ca
CarolAnne King	Occupational Therapist	carolanne.king@sd27.bc.ca
Charlotte Lundeen	Speech and Language Pathologist	charlotte.lundeen@sd27.bc.ca

2024-2025 School Calendar

September 2, 2024	Labour Day Holiday (School Closed)
September 3, 2024	Planning / Administration Day (<i>Students do not attend</i>)
September 4, 2024	First Day of School (Shortened By 2.5 Hours)
September 23, 2024	Pro-D / Non-Instructional Day (Students Do Not Attend)
September 30, 2024	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 14, 2024	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
October 25, 2024	Pro-D / Non-Instructional Day (Students Do Not Attend)
November 11, 2024	Remembrance Day Holiday (School Closed)
November 13 & 14, 2024	Parent Teacher Interviews (School day shortened by 1 hour)
November 25, 2024	Pro-D / Non-Instructional Day (Students Do Not Attend)
December 23 – January 3, 2025	Winter Break (School Closed)
January 6, 2025	First Day Back After Winter Break
February 14, 2025	Pro-D / Non-Instructional Day (Students Do Not Attend)
February 17, 2025	Family Day (School Closed)
March 17 – 28, 2025	Spring Break (School Closed)
March 31, 2025	First Day Back After Spring Break
April 11, 2025	Pro-D / Non-Instructional Day (Students Do Not Attend)
April 18, 2025	Good Friday (School Closed)
April 21, 2025	Easter Monday (School Closed)
April 23 & 24, 2025	Parent Teacher Interviews (School day shortened by 1 hour)
May 19, 2025	Victoria Day Holiday (School Closed)
June 26, 2025	Last Day Students Attend School

June 27, 2025

Planning / Administration Day (School Closed)

Communication

Teachers all use a planner or back and forth book to allow for consistent communication about day-to-day happenings. Please use these to let the school know about things like pick up plans or to request a meeting time with teachers. If there is a last-minute change in plans for your child, please call the school to let us know. Regular communication will also come from the school through newsletters that will be emailed home and posted on our school website.

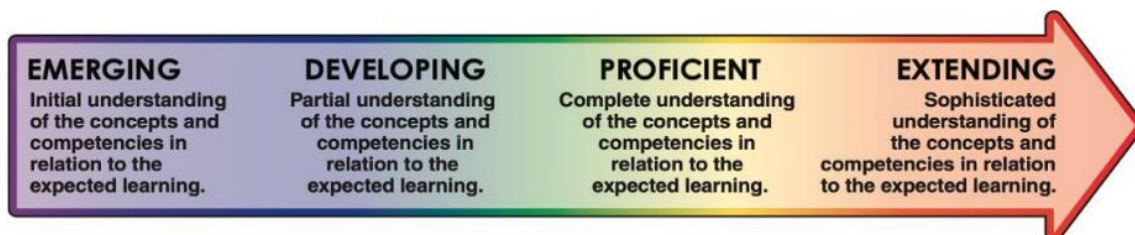
We are dedicated to providing time and space for respectful conversation about student learning and growth. We ask that parents/caregivers to set up times to discuss important matters so that we can achieve this. Bell times are not good for discussions as teachers are busy with students the second the bell rings. We will approach each situation professionally and respectfully and ask that parents/caregivers demonstrate respect as well.

We are all committed to being open to feedback and are willing to learn and grow alongside the students. If the issue goes unresolved then please contact me directly. The best way to set up an appointment with me is to email me directly at kelly.glen@sd27.bc.ca or call the school to leave a message.

Learning Updates

Learning Updates happen 5 times a year for elementary students: 2 informal reports, which usually occur in the form of learning conferences at the school, and 3 formal written learning updates. Teachers will also be in regular communication with parents and caregivers if there are academic or behaviour concerns. As always, you are always welcome to ask teachers for updates throughout the year as well.

We continue to use the same reporting scale when reporting on student progress:



Personal Belongings

We ask that parents and caregivers please help us in keeping student personal belongings at school. Toys, cards, games, and special trinkets should not be coming to school. Our classrooms are busy, and these often distract students from learning, and lead to disagreements amongst students. We are also not responsible for lost, broken, or misplaced items, which is inevitable in a large group setting. Students who bring personal belongings to school will be asked to keep them in their backpacks. If this becomes an issue, the teacher will ask students to leave their items on the teacher's desk to be claimed at the end of the day.

Bikes and Scooters

We encourage students and families to travel to and from school in Earth Friendly ways. Our neighbourhood provides a safe and easy way to walk, scoot and ride around, and we would love to see more students taking

advantage of this. We have bike racks available in our school courtyard for students to lock up bikes and scooters. If you need help with a lock, please let us know; we have extras available. During recess and lunch, we ask students to keep their bikes and scooters locked up, they are not to be used at recess and lunch.

Meals Programming

Eating nutritious food throughout the day is an important part of learning – food fuels our brains, and we are dedicated to supporting that at Marie Sharpe. We are fortunate to run a great breakfast program for students arriving at school without having had breakfast at home, or for those who have had an early start and long bus ride. Through generous funding and volunteer support, we also provide nutritious snacks and lunches for families who need them.

Student Recognition

The Seven Teachings at Marie Sharpe

At Marie Sharpe, we are also dedicated to learning about and demonstrating the qualities of the Seven Teachings: Courage, Love, Wisdom, Respect, Truth, Humility, and Wisdom.

Courage: Let nothing stand in the way of doing the right thing.

Love: It is important to care for one another.

Wisdom: Knowledge comes from hard work and dedication.

Respect: Give it. Earn it. Receive it.

Truth: It is always easiest to speak the truth.

Humility: To be humble about your accomplishments is to be strong.



Bus Conduct

Riding the bus is a privilege and students are expected to follow bus rules accordingly and maintain safe behaviours for the entire ride. Students who do not act accordingly will be cited by the bus driver and follow up will occur in accordance with the school district “School Bus Conduct” procedure. **In the event of serious behaviours, bus privileges may be revoked.**

We continue to work on updating our school behaviour expectations and responses to reflect current practice and pedagogy. We commit to working alongside our school community to ensure our behaviour policies and restitution work aligns with core educational values. As we learn and grow as a staff, and as we work towards Truth and Reconciliation, we also commit to working with our Indigenous Partners to ensure we are meeting the needs of all students.