

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We have welcomed all of our students over the past few days and are eager for the exciting year to get rolling. I am honored to be leading this fine group of staff and students through another year of educational adventures. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached by phone at the school or through email. Feel free to reach out to discuss anything and please plan to attend our school council meetings to hear the latest in our building first hand.

Our focus this year is on promoting positive perceptions of education and on student success. In order to support these two goals we will be concentrating on the factors of student success and how best to support students and families. Positive and productive communication is key to ensuring that all stakeholders are on the same page about educational importance and elements that are supporting or impeding a student's achievement. We will have in-person parent teacher interviews in October and March, but welcome other meetings as needed to support students.

The pillars of success are

- Attendance
- Be On Time and Be Prepared
- Work Hard

Attendance Matters

Student success is directly affected by students' punctuality and regular attendance at school. Students who are consistently late or are absent from class, miss valuable learning time that can not be duplicated by reading the textbook or completing the missed assignment. Lessons, discussions, activities, group interactions and hands-on learning experiences are key components to success in learning for all students. Our focus on student success has to be supported by parents and students valuing regular attendance and punctuality in class. To promote the maximum learning opportunities for your students we are requesting that attendance at school be a priority. Whenever possible, avoid the scheduling of activities/appointments/vacations during scheduled school time. When we maximize attendance we maximize learning opportunities and student success.

In order to support you in promoting positive attendance, PowerSchool will generate a list of absent students and contact home 3 times a day. If a student is not present in a class, the teacher will mark them absent. If they arrive late, the teacher may not always be in a position to change the "absent" to "late" immediately and the system may still call and email home. However, if you would like to confirm, you can login to your parent portal and see your students' attendance status. If you are ever in doubt do not hesitate to call the school and confirm. If you know your student will be absent, please contact the office with the reason so that we can enter it into our system appropriately.

Be Prepared and On Time

Our class schedule is formatted to support student breaks between classes and ample time to get to and from classes. When students arrive to class with all the necessary tools for learning and are on time, the teachers can maximize the time spent on learning activities. The beginning of classes can be a review of previous material, an introduction to new material and contains essential conversations that can not be duplicated in notes or repeated by a peer when a student is late. Preparedness and punctuality are two more key characteristics to success.

Work Hard - Homework/Assignment Completion, Study

Almost all of the classes will have a digital google classroom that holds assignments, assessment dates and some additional learning materials. Teachers can invite parents to be included to help support students in learning. In addition, creating a PowerSchool account can help you stay on top of attendance, assignment completion, assessment preparation and achievement. Student practice, homework and assignments are the building blocks of learning demonstration before a quiz/test to measure learning. The completion of these activities are critical in the ability of teachers to monitor student learning and progress. Please contact the office to help set up an account if you do not already have one.

Bell Schedule

Our website, mayerthorpehigh.ca, has a pdf of our bell schedule. Classes start at 9:00 am and students have a 40 minute lunch. Students who miss more than 20% of a class will be marked absent.

Breakfast Club

Each morning students have access to complimentary breakfast items. The menu varies daily and is always nutritious, delicious and served with a smile. We serve about 60 students daily. Thank you to Breakfast Club of Canada, Pembina Pipelines and Pembina West Co-op for their donations to our program. If you would like to help support the program, juice boxes and cereal are always appreciated.

Grade 12 Parent and Grad Meeting - Thursday September 14 7:30 pm

Parents and students should attend this meeting to discuss graduation qualifications, how to support your student in achieving their diploma, meeting the grad executive and setting up the remainder of their final year in high school. We will also discuss post-high school planning. Contact Mrs. Jager if you have any questions.

Meet The Teacher - Thursday September 14 6:00 pm

All parents and students are welcome to join us for a hot dog and a chat. We will introduce our staff and you will have the opportunity to walk the halls and ask questions.

PowerSchool Parent Portal

The parent portal access is the perfect way to keep up-to-date with student assessment and attendance. If you do not have access to the portal for your students please contact the office.

Safer Schools Together - Digitally Responsible Youth - A Parent's Guide

Parenting is hard, and the rapid rise of technology and social media use in the lives of their kids makes it harder.

To help, we're extending complimentary access to download [Raising Digitally Responsible Youth – A Parent's Guide](#) from Safer Schools Together. The guide was designed to help introduce Parents and Caregivers to leading social media platforms, video games, and relevant trends that are either being used already or have the potential to be used by their children.

This guide is full of tips, how-to's and definitions for the most widely used apps – including TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram and more. Best of all – it's complimentary, and can be shared with every parent in our community.

SchoolCash Online

All fees and outstanding items will be listed on SchoolCash. Programs with fees will appear on the account and can be paid for through various means.

School Council Establishment Meeting

There will be a school council establishment meeting on Tuesday September 19th @ 7 pm. We will elect members to the position of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and others if needed. Please join us and hear the latest news in the school and the division.

School Photos - Monday September 11, 2023

Smart Photography will be taking school photos on Monday September 11. All order forms will be online. Remember - DO NOT WEAR GREEN!

Sports

Our extensive sports program is off and running.

- Senior volleyball teams began tryouts this week
- Junior teams will have tryouts on Tuesday/Thursday 3:30 pm - 5 pm next week.
- Senior golf team will be trying out tonight.
- Junior golf team will compete on October 4 in Whitecourt - practice will be determined based on sign up in the office.
- The cross country team will practice Thursdays from 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Please Note: Throughout the year, parents may be required to drive students to competitions. If you wish to drive more than your own student, you must get a letter from Mrs. Hansen to get a criminal record check (this takes two weeks), proof of insurance, a driver's abstract and a complete volunteer driver form.

Textbooks/Library Books

If your student has any outstanding textbooks/library books, please return them to the office as soon as possible. Outstanding books will be placed on SchoolCash Online accounts in October.

Upcoming Dates:

Awards Night - October 5, 2023

Parent Teacher Interviews - October 18 & 19, 2023 from 4 - 7:30pm