



School District No. 43 Coquitlam

COMO LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

1121 King Albert Avenue, Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 1X8 | Phone: 604-936-1451 | Fax: 604-937-8043 | www.sd43.bc.ca/school/comolake

September 1, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope your summer was filled with laughter, adventure, and quality time with loved ones. We are delighted to welcome students back to Como Lake Middle School and are eager to begin another exciting school year together. From enriching classroom experiences to school-wide activities and celebrations, there is much to look forward to in the year ahead. We can't wait to connect with students and families and continue building a vibrant and caring school community.

Over the past several weeks, everyone has been working hard to prepare for the new school year. Teachers have been setting up their classrooms, while our maintenance and custodial crews have been busy ensuring the school is ready to welcome students. We are excited to share several upgrades that took place over the break, including the completion of a large roofing project, new flooring and paint in several areas, and the creation of our new “Nest” gathering space. We also experienced a flood during the summer, and as a result, a few spaces in the school will remain temporarily closed while improvement work continues.

As we look ahead to the start of classes, we are pleased to welcome a number of new staff to our school community. Several of our existing staff members are also taking on new roles, moving to different teams and learning spaces. In addition, we have had the opportunity to meet many new students who registered this week. Our goal is for students to be assigned into their classes by Friday, September 11th. We are excited about the opportunities and experiences that await us in the 2026-2027 school year and look forward to a fantastic year together.

This week, we have a tour for students and families who have newly registered or did not get a chance to tour in the spring. This is also for students who may need an extra visit to the school before Tuesday. **This tour will be at 1:00 pm on Friday, September 4th (please note this is a time change from our June communication).**

The first day of school this year is **Tuesday, September 8th**. Students will attend **at 10:00 a.m.** and will stay for approximately 30 minutes for attendance. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday will be full



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days. School begins at 8:53 am on Wednesday and 8:33 am on Thursday and Friday. School dismisses at 3:00 pm.

Our main office is open from 9 am – 3 pm this week. If you have any questions, we are here to support you so please do not hesitate to reach out via comolake@sd43.bc.ca or 604-936-1451.

Below are a number of important items so please review in detail.

Communication

Communication between home and school is very important to us. We know a strong home to school partnership underlies every success for students. Below are some ways to access ongoing information at our school:

- Please visit our new school public website regularly. Please use the following link as it may not be updated on search engines yet: <https://www.sd43.bc.ca/comolake> Make sure you subscribe to our calendar.
- Please read direct messages emailed to you. If you have not received correspondence for a long time, please contact the office to verify your email address. We send out emails regularly with updates on an as-needed basis.
- Please attend a PAC meeting. PAC meetings are scheduled regularly and information regarding the time and date of the first meeting will be sent to parents.
- Please always feel comfortable contacting your child's teacher by phone or email.

Tuesday, September 8th:

All students will attend from 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Students do not need to bring anything with them that day. Students will enter the school through the entrances described below:

- **Grade 6's: Proceed to the Cafeteria.** Enter through the Cafeteria doors at the front of the school. These are the bottom floor doors accessed off of King Albert Avenue.
- **Grade 7's: Proceed to the Gymnasium.** Enter through the courtyard doors at the back of the school or the gym doors on the east side of the school. These doors are near the parking lot accessible from Lemax Avenue.



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- **Grade 8's: Proceed to the Library Learning Commons.** Enter through the front entrance doors.
- Grade 7 and 8 students new to Como Lake can meet Ms. Slinger (our School Counsellor) at the main office doors to receive any guidance that is needed.

First Week Plan: September 9th to 11th, 2026:

On Wednesday, September 9th, students will head to the locations that they went to on Tuesday. Students will be working in their grade level teams on team building activities, reviewing our school's Code of Conduct, playing games, and working on team generated activities designed with our school Credo in mind. **Our goal is to have students moved to their classes by Friday afternoon. If there is a change in this plan, we will communicate it to you on Friday.**

Our Credo:

We shine

We contribute

We are passionate

We are valued

We are Lakers

First Week Supplies

For the Wednesday to Friday of our opening week (September 9th to 11th, 2026), students need minimal supplies (pen, pencil, eraser, a glue stick, some paper, and some pencil crayons). They do not need a device (eg: laptop). They can bring their full supplies, including a device (if they have one already), when they are in their permanent classroom the week of Monday, September 14th.



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School Supplies

Please refer to our school supply list under the "Our School" tab. There is a direct link to School Supplies below.

[School Supplies 2026-2027.pdf](#)

BYOLD: Bring Your Own Learning Device

Como Lake Middle School is a Bring Your Own Learning Device school. A detailed Laptop Guide (including recommendations) can be found on our website under the school supplies list.

Bell Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Warning Bell	8:33 am	8:33 am	8:53 am*	8:33 am	8:33 am
Start	8:37 am	8:37 am	8:57 am*	8:37 am	8:37 am
Dismiss	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm

Please ensure students arrive in advance of the warning bell to ensure they are in class on time.

***Wednesdays are a late start time to allow teachers to collaborate and attend meetings.**

Parent Tasks: Online Payments

As you are likely aware, the district has moved to an online payment system, ***School Cash Online***, that allows you to view and pay for your child's school activities such as fieldtrips and school-related fees, safely and conveniently. You can find a quick link to School Cash Online on the school homepage. **If you have not yet set up an account, please take a moment to register your child once they have been assigned to a class and know who their teacher will be.**



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Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email that you have registered your account. You will then have to go back into the link in that email to attach your child(ren) to your account. You can attach ALL of your children, no matter what school they attend in the district, choosing the appropriate school from the dropdown for each child. You will be required to enter their legal first and last name and date of birth. ***Please ensure you opt in for messages.***

Once set up, you will receive email notifications of upcoming events such as fieldtrips and receive follow-up reminders for unpaid events. You will also be able to grant permission online for your child to attend events and to notify teachers if you are able to volunteer. You will be able to view your history of payments for each of your children.

Student Forms

Visit our school website and click on ***Parent E-Forms*** to complete: School Policies, Emergency Release, Volunteer & Driver Forms, and Medical Alert. **Please fill these forms in after your children are in their assigned classes and know their teacher.**

Student Fees

Visit our school website and click on ***Online Payments***. School Fees are \$50 (\$35 for Student Activity Fees and \$15 for Athletic Fees). All fees can be paid through School Cash Online (KEV). Fees are due by October 2nd, 2026.

\$35 - Student Activity Fee - Activity fees support school-wide activities for students, such as student leadership events, clubs, cultural performances and special event celebrations. The activity fee also supports the purchase of student planners and team t-shirts. Student activity fees are common to all middle schools and are approved by the Board of Education.

\$15 - Annual Athletic Fee. This fee goes to support the purchase of up to date athletic equipment, uniforms, transportation costs and many other items related to supporting athletics at Como Lake Middle.



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We know that back to school has a number of costs for families. If your family requires support to cover some or all of the \$35 Activity Fee or \$15 Annual Athletic Fee, please reach out to Principal Devon Ross at dross@sd43.bc.ca. Your information will be kept in confidence.

School Yearbooks (this is an optional additional fee). A yearbook highlights the major events of the year and includes photographs of individuals, clubs and teams. **The cost is \$40** and they are **pre-ordered** from the months of September to December. Although we always order a few “extras”, we cannot guarantee that one can be purchased in June. Please ensure that you **pre-order** to avoid any disappointments at the end of the year.

Please note that some of our families need some additional support in purchasing a yearbook. If you would like to purchase a second yearbook and donate it to another student anonymously, that would be very much appreciated and will bring a lot of joy in June. You can do this by selecting a quantity of 2 yearbooks to purchase.

School Calendar

On our school’s public website, you will find the school calendar. This calendar includes any holidays and professional development days, along with school events. Please subscribe to our school calendar for the latest events. The link can be found at:

<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/comolake/calendar>

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones are not needed or required at middle school. If your child has a cell phone, they cannot use it in the building. Phones must be stored in lockers all day and should not be accessed. Students may use their phones once they have left school property. ***All communication between home and school during school hours must be done through the school office. We have a phone that students can use in our office.***

The district endorses the provision of district-wide network and Internet services to support student learning. While there are many benefits, there is also potential for misuse. Students are not



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permitted to create, distribute or access any material which is not suitable for classroom learning. When using technology, district electronic mail (email) services, social networking, collaboration, blogging, media sharing tools, in relation to their role, students and staff are expected to act as appropriate digital citizens as laid out in the procedures.

Digital devices of any kind are only to be used at the discretion of the classroom teacher when identified as appropriate for the learning environment or because of unique circumstances. Any use of personal digital devices at school is subject to all other expectations for conduct and use of technology, including AP 140.2 – Digital Responsibility for Students.

Exceptions to restrictions are provided at the discretion of the school principal or designate where the device is:

- a. designated as the primary learning device for a student
- b. identified as being necessary for medical, accessibility or equity reasons
- c. identified as useful for specific instructional activities.

Pictures/Videos are not allowed to be taken unless under the supervision of a staff member.

Lockers

Each student will be given a locker to store their personal items. Locks will be provided by the school. Only school-owned locks can be used on lockers. It is important that students DO NOT share their combination with friends.

Band

Students are encouraged to listen to announcements in the first few weeks regarding sign up. All levels of ability are welcome. See Ms. Ferguson (our new Band Teacher) if you have any questions about Band.



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Athletics

Our athletics program offers a variety of sports and opportunities for all students. Our Athletics link on our school's webpage will be updated with sports being offered each season. Information regarding schedules, practice and game times and coaching information will be posted on the website. Go Lakers!

Drop Off and Pick Up

We encourage active forms of transportation such as walking and cycling to school. Students can lock up bicycles on the chain in the courtyard outside the office. As a reminder, students under the age of 16 are not permitted to ride micromobility transportation (such as e-scooters or e-bikes) in Coquitlam. E-Scooters and E-bikes are not permitted on school district property.

Many students will also be driven to school. There will be cars converging around the school at the same time. Drop off and pick up times may be congested. **Student safety is of paramount concern.** We appreciate your patience and attention to student safety during busy pick up and drop off times.

Final Comments from Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Brant

We are very much looking forward to supporting students in their learning journeys this year. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions (comolake@sd43.bc.ca or 604-936-1451).

Sincerely,

Devon Ross and Belanina Brant
Principal and Vice-Principal